MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 MARCH 1983

Maghreb Affairs

Commenting on the 26 February meeting between Algeria's President Chadli Bendjedid and Morocco's King Hassan II, Polisario foreign affairs spokesman Salim Mohamed Ould Salek said the Saharan Government and the Polisario are receptive to and support every initiative that seeks to revive direct negotiation between the SDAR and Morocco to achieve a peaceful settlement of the crisis, Algiers radio announced. According to a related AFP report, the Polisario spokesman added that peace is conditional upon "the withdrawal of the last Moroccan solider" from Saharan territory and dependent upon Morocco's respecting the SDAR's "sovereignty and territorial integrity." Earlier, Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi pointed out that Tunisian President Bourguiba "salutes" this new initiative and views it as another incentive to continue joint efforts toward strengthening the bonds of fraternity and cooperation among the Maghreb countries, Tunis radio reported.

Addressing the Algerian workers union, President Bendjedid declared that the policy of good-neighborliness is the "sound and exemplary" way to settle all questions and problems among brothers, APS noted. The president defined good-neighborliness as "noninterference" in the internal affairs of others and respect for the will of peoples of neighboring countries, APS added.

Egypt

During a working visit to Rome, Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said it is "urgent" to find a solution to the Middle East crisis before the start of the next U.S. presidential campaign because there will be little talk in the United States later about the Middle East, according to AFP. Ghali said it is "vital" to associate both Jordan and the Palestinians in future negotiations on Palestinian autonomy, adding that Egypt would participate in the negotiations only if that condition were fulfilled, AFP added. The minister described Egyptian-Israeli relations as a kind of "cold peace," asserting that Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon is a precondition for any improvement in bilateral relations, AFP noted.

Israel

Defense Minister Moshe Arens "apologized" to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and denied reports that he had stated that Weinberger's positions are influenced by his economic activities and that he "is worse" than Secretary of State George Shultz, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

Jordan

Secretary of State Shultz' statement to a Senate committee that the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Arab Jerusalem are Israeli-occupied territories "is the most clear-cut stand the United States has taken on the occupied territories," according to an Amman radio commentary. The radio said the statement's "value" lies in the fact that it comprehensively explains the position of the Reagan administration on Israeli settlement policy. Expressing "appreciation" for the U.S. Administration's "courageous stand," the radio noted that the United States is "dutybound" to follow up its declared stands with clear action that will end settlements and occupation.

Lebanon

Negotiations Session -- The Israeli delegation displayed "inflexibility" toward Lebanon's proposals on bilateral relations and security arrangements, the Lebanese Information Ministry announced in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio following the first session of the 1 March Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks at Khaldah. Earlier, Jerusalem radio reported that during talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir, U.S. envoy Philip Habib failed to bridge large gaps between Lebanon and Israel on several matters, including the dispute over the manning of observation posts, the role of UNIFIL, and the pace of normalization of relations. The radio also said Israel may propose that the IDF patrol Israel's security strip in Lebanon in conjunction with Major Sa'd Haddad's forces.

PLO Withdrawal, Prisoners -- The PLO is ready to withdraw its fighters from Lebanon provided the safety of Palestinians in Lebanon is safeguarded, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir reaffirmed in a statement to AS-SAFIR reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Al-Wazir also declared in a 28 February interview reported by KINA that the PLO would know "within the next 24 hours" when the exchange of PLO and Israeli prisoners will take place.

Syria

The Soviet Union has supplied Syria with two radar early warning aircraft flown by "Soviet experts" and is also setting up several modern radar installations near Damascus, according to Arab diplomatic sources cited by Voice of Lebanon radio. Culture Minister Najah al-'Attar stated in Damascus that the Soviet Union will not leave the Middle East at the mercy of the United States and Israel and will adopt a stiffer position in 1983 than during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

In another development President Hafiz al-Asad held talks with visiting Libyan Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, SANA noted.

Iran

The authorities pardoned and released 8,193 prisoners throughout the country on 27 February, Tehran radio reported citing an announcement by the head of the council supervising prison affairs. The move is in accordance with Ayatollah Khomeyni's December 1982 decree on the judicial system, the radio indicated.

GCC Affairs

Measures for implementing the unified economic agreement among the GCC countries will begin on 2 March and will include the abolition of customs tariffs for locally manufactured commodities, WAKH announced.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO EXPECTS PRISONER EXCHANGE DETAILS SOON

LD281205 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Talal al-Kayid dispatch]

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (KUNA) -- deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, today declared taht the PLO will know within the next 24 hours precisely when the exchange of prisoners between the PLO and Israel will take place.

In an interview with KUNA and REUTER, Abu Jihad said: We are waiting for the contacts currently taking place in Vienna through the International Red Cross to be completed in order to agree on the date and the means of exchanging 8 Israeli prisoners for the 6,500 Palestinian and Lebanese who are in Ansar military camp in southern Lebanon and in other Israeli prisons in the occupied territory. During the next 24 hours, we shall know precisely when the exchange process will take place.

He added that as soon as the Israeli authorities agree to the PLO's conditions, the eight Israeli military prisoners will reach Vienna at the same time the Palestinian prisoners who will be released from Israeli prisons reach Vienna.

He explained that the names of the Palestinian prisoners were mentioned in a list handed by the PLO to the International Red Cross and to Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky at an earlier date [words indistinct] as well as the release of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in Ansar camp in southern Lebanon and the return of the documents and files of the Palestine Research Center which were taken by the Israeli authorities during their invasion of Lebanon.

Abu Jihad said the released prisoners will travel by air from Vienna to Algeirs as a first stop. [sentence as received]

He pointed out that the eight Israeli military prisoners, who were captured by the Palestinian revolution last September in Lebanon, are in excellent health and are receiving the necessary care, unlike the inhumane treatment received by the Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners at the hands of the Israelis.

He said: The Israeli authorities informed the International Red Cross a few days ago that they have checked 962 names from the list of 1,000 submitted by the PLO. We are now waiting for the rest of the names to be checked in order to reach a final timing for the exchange process.

KUNA: SPOKESMAN NOTES PLO STANCE TOWARD EGYPT

LD261212 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Tunis, 26 Feb (KUNA) -- A prominent Palestinian official today here said that "the PLO distinguishes between the course of the Camp David and Egypt's natural and historic role on National pan-arab and international levels."

Some Egyptian information media had quoted an unnamed Egyptian Foreign Ministry official as having said that Egyptian-Palestinian relations suffered a setback because of what the political statement issued by the PNC at the end of its 16th session -- which concluded its work in Algiers last Tuesday -- said about Egypt.

The official spokesman of the PLO, Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, in a special statement to KUNA said "it appears that the official spokesman of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry did not study sufficiently and comprehensively the political statement issued by the PNC, which stems from its appreciation for Egypt's role in the Arab struggle and its great contribution in support of the Palestinian people and their cause."

He added: "The PLO has and continues to put on record this fact with lasting consideration and care to distinguishing between the course of Camp David and Egypt's natural and historic role on national, pan-Arab, and international levels."

QNA: PLO CONTEMPLATES TIES WITH LIBYA, SYRIA

GF010912 Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Mar (QNA) --` In tomorrow's issue the Kuwaiti weekly magazine MIR'AT AL-UMMAH quotes Palestinian sources described as high-ranking as affirming that the Palestinian leadership is currently inclined to open a new era with Libya. The sources told the magazine that Libya has asked Fatah to turn over a new leaf and open a new chapter of bilateral relations within new frameworks. The magazine says Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah's second in command, is likely to lead a Palestinian delegation to Libya for this purpose.

Furthermore, the magazine quotes Palestinian sources as saying that a high-ranking Palestinian delegation will visit Syria shortly in an attempt to end the disagreements in Syrian-Palestinian relations and to arrange a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The magazine notes that recent reports said that letters were exchanged between the two sides regarding the convocation of the PNC in Algeria.

QATARI PAPER: ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST 'ARAFAT

GF282039 Doha AR-RAYAH in Arabic 26 Feb 83 pp 1, 13

[Text] Palestinian sources have revealed to AR-RAYAH an attempt to assassinate Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Algeria during the PNC.

The sources noted that the attempt was planned carefully to take place in two phases and to trap 'Arafat in the various places that he was moving to.

However, the sources affirmed that the attempt was foiled and three persons who came to Algeria on the pretext of attending the National Council meeting were arrested. They were held in custody until the second phase of the attempt was discovered.

The Palestinian sources noted that one of the Arab countries assigned groups to carry out a number of tasks during the conference: to assassinate 'Arafat, disrupt the sessions of the conference, and transfer reports to the embassy of this country in Algeria.

The sources added that the ambassador of this country was constantly moving between the Aurassi Hotel, which was the headquarters for the press, and the conference palace where the council sessions were being held. However, he was forbidden to enter these places after he was exposed.

The sources explained that the assassination plan was discovered when the three people arrived on an Italian plane from Rome on Sunday, 13 February 1983, at 1400 carrying arms which were immediately confiscated by Algerian authorities, who arrested the three people.

However, this information did not reach the Palestinian leadership immediately because Algeria had taken extraordinary security measures around the council and in various districts of Algeria in preparation for any extraordinary incident, in an effort to ensure the success of the Palestinian conference removed from external influences.

Despite that, the Palestinian security networks received full reports, including names, through their special sources. However, they thought that the exposure of the first phase of the attempt might be followed by a second phase to be executed within Algeria after the failure of the first attempt. The information noted that the site of the assassination attempt might be the Algerian Tebessa camp, where Palestinian fighters are stationed whom 'Arafat visited on Saturday, 19 February.

It was noted that the security measures there were extraordinary and that other strict measures were taken in the districts where the Palestinian leaders were staying near the Palais des Nations, when information was received that Salah Khalaf (alias Abu Iyad) would also be an assassination target. It is worth mentioning that three Algerian destroyers were stationed opposite the conference palace in preparation for any incidents.

The sources affirmed that this is not the first time that an assassination attempt against 'Arafat has been discovered. They explained that an earlier attempt was discovered during celebrations of the Palestinian revolution in Aden at the end of January when a suspect, a PDRY resident, was arrested and deported after bring detained throughout the celebrations.

KHALIL AL-WAZIR ON WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

JN281420 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander of the Palestinian revolution forces, has stated that the PLO is ready to pull its fighters out of Lebanon provided the safety of the Palestinians in Lebanon is safeguarded.

Abu Jihad made the statement to Beirut AS-SAFIR.

ABU MAYZAR PRAISES SYRIA, COMMENTS ON PNC

JN270854 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar has praised the role and courage of the Syrian Armed Forces in the battles of Beirut and Lebanon. In a statement to the press yesterday, Abu Mayzar said that the final statement of the PNC gave special importance to Syria. The PNC reiterated its appreciation for the steadfastness, courage, and efficiency of the Syrian fighter at the side of his Palestinian and Lebanese brothers in the unequal war and the way they shattered the myth of the invincibility of the Zionist army.

Abu Mayzar added that the PNC resolutions also stressed the importance of strategic relations with fraternal Syria with respect to the Palestinian revolution for serving militant, national, and pan-Arab objectives and for confronting the Zionist enemy and imperialism, given that Syria and the PLO are the major confroatation line against the Zionist enemy.

Abu Mayzar noted the PNC emphasis on armed struggle and its escalation against the Zionist enemy. He said that the PNC stressed the need for effective confrontation of the Zionist and imperialist conspiracies, the Camp David accords, and Reagan's plan, which disavows our right to repatriation and self-determination.

Abu Mayzar also stressed the PNC's rejection of all plans aimed at harming the PLO's right to represent the Pelestinian people through any formula such as delegation of power or participation in the representation of the Palestinian people.

PLO RADIO WARNS AGAINST PHALANGIST, HADDAD CRIMES

JN261805 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Phalangist elements and groups belonging to traitor Sa'd Haddad are continuing their terrorism against Palestinian civilians in southern Lebanon. There are daily threats warning Palestinians against remaining in their homes to force them to move to 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp or further away to northern Lebanon or Al-Biqa'. This is in addition to the killings and seizures of Palestinian property by agents belonging to the Phalangist Party and Sa'd Haddad with Zionist backing, as everyone knows.

The harassment and antagonization of the Palestinians in southern Lebanon is taking place amid complete official silence. There is no mention by Lebanese authorities of the Palestinian civilians' lawful residence in Lebanon since 1948. Even those forces which were expected to take action in Lebanon, at least by condemning or denouncing the crimes committed by the militias against the Palestinians, have not made a move. It is as if the threat to Lebanon comes from the defenseless Palestinian civilians.

We would like to remind the Phalangist elements and Sa'd Haddad, as well as other traitors and hirelings in the Lebanese arena, that despite the passage of 35 years the Palestinians have not forgotten the Zionist massacres against them and that the Zionist terrorists have paid and will pay heavily for their crimes against the Palestinians. We remind Israel's agents, who are now being protected by Israel in Lebanon, that, despite their ability to carry out acts of terrorism and to commit massacres, the Zionist leaders will not be able to prevent the Palestinians from inflicting on the enemy the heaviest losses in personnel, materiel, and in many other fields. We do not think Zionist puppets such as the Phalangist and Haddad elements will be able to protect themselves no matter how long the Zionist occupation lasts.

The agents and their collaborators know full well that they will not be able to escape punishment. This punishment may not be meted out quickly, but it is bound to come. The Palestinians will not forgive the murderers their crimes. The war criminals, the agents of Zionism in Lebanon, must pay heavily for their crimes against and persecution of defenseless Palestinian civilians.

VENEZUELA'S CALDERON BERTI HOLDS TALKS ON PRICES

NC281847 Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT 28 Feb 83

[By Denis Brulet]

[Text] Paris, Feb 28 (AFP) -- Venezuelan Oil Minister Humberto Calderon Berti said here today that the planned special Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting to work out a new prices and production structure will not take place "before the end of the week."

Last week Gulf oil ministers said the meeting could take place Wednesday in Vienna or Geneva.

After talks with Algerian Energy Minister Belkacem Nabi and Kuwaiti Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, Mr Calderon Berti seemed pessimistic about the chances of success of his conciliation mission, but said it would continue "in Europe" over the next days.

The chances of agreement to prevent what experts see as the possibility of a general collapse in oil prices received a setback yesterday when United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mani ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah declared that if no agreement was reached within a week, then his country would unilaterally fix its own prices and production levels.

Kuwaiti sources said that at today's meeting Shaykh al-Khalifah reported on his talks this weekend with heads of the British National Oil Corporation in London.

(In London, informed oil circles said Britain, not a member of OPEC was adopting a cautious approach in its negotiations with OPEC countries.

(Britain's Energy Ministry refused all comment on talks with the Kuwaiti oil minister as well as with delegations from Mexico and Venezuela.

(Informed circles said Britain did not want to be seen openly taking OPEC's side and risk being accused of maintaining artificially high oil prices to the detriment of the general world economy and in particular its partners with the European Economic Community and underdeveloped nations in the Commonwealth staggering under huge petrol bills.

(They added that such a position in favour of a cartel, like OPEC, would also be against the Conservative government's free market policy.)

Before returning here for further talks, Mr Calderon Berti had made a brief tour of the Gulf for talks with Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Zaki Yamani as well as visiting the United Arab Emirates. He also had telephone talks with the Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto and Nigerian Minister Pahaya Dikko.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC ECONOMIC AGREEMENT TO BE IMPLEMENTED

GF281927 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1335 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Ad-Dammam, 28 Feb (WAKH) -- Measures for implementing the unified economic agreement among the GCC countries will begin as of tomorrow, Tuesday, and will include the abolition of customs tariffs for locally manufactured commodities. Also, measures for treating GCC citizens as first-country nationals will take effect in the movement of GCC citizens. This will allow them to work in the fields of industry, agriculture, fish industries, animal husbandry, and contracting. Every GCC country will have the right for its citizens to have not less than 25 percent participation in the capital of companies and joint companies.

The new transit system will be implemented among the GCC countries to facilitate the flow of goods and products and will allow for work in the same activities in all the GCC countries after the necessary documents and endorsements are obtained.

Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Mulla, secretary general of the Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture in the Gulf countries, has told SPA on the occasion of the implementation of the agreement that the Gulf private sector is expected to play a greater role in the flow and circulation of Gulf products and in the diversification of channels of contacts among the member countries.

He said the unified economic agreement has taken into consideration the levels of development in its countries and their priorities of national development, and has provided the necessary flexibility for implementation because it allows for some temporary exemptions during the stages of implementation in special cases as warranted by local situations and certain conditions.

KUWAIT

KUWAIT WARNS OPEC ON PRICING, PRODUCTION QUOTAS

LD281409 Kuwait KUNA in English 1311 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 28 (KUNA) -- Kuwait warned Monday that unless agreement is reached among OPEC members on prices and production quotas, "the Arab Gulf countries will not stand by idly" and will adopt a stance "protecting their interests and maintaining a reasonable standard of production to secure themselves an acceptable revenue. [quotation marks as received]

The minister of state for Cabinet affairs, 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn stressed that Kuwait and the Gulf states were closely linked to the OPEC organisation and were defending the organisation's unity and cohesion.

However, the government's official spokesman warned that "unless consensus is reached by OPEC member states on prices and production quotas" the Arab Gulf states "will not remain tied-handed [as received] and will assume a different position in line with (?their) interests and enough to maintain production at the reasonable level and their individual revenue at an agreeable mark, particularly that these states depend mainly on oil-production," Husayn explained. [sentence as received]

The minister added that the [word indistinct] consultations made by Kuwait and the Gulf countries were spurred by the great interest attached to these states in OPEC's unity, strength and cohesion.

He noted that when some external resolutions were adopted on collective commitment to the organization's decisions, a miniconference of oil ministers in some member countries was held. "Now," Husayn stated, "contacts are underway with other oil-producing states in an effort to half competition or the so-called price war to reach agreement on unified prices and, possibly, on a (?definite) production." The spokesman announced that an OPEC oil ministerial conference will be held soon, during which "acts by some non-adhering states will be openly and frankly discussed." He concluded by re-asserting that the Arab Gulf states will not stand by idly regarding any acts undermining OPEC's unity or the interests of its member states.

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR KEEPING OIL UNDERGROUND

GF281836 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 27 Feb 83 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "In Response to the Price War, Keep Oil in Its Wells"]

[Text] It seems that OPEC is rushing toward suicide, which is what was intended for it by the damned West. It is very clear that U.S. fingers manipulated part of the events which led to the OPEC war. Nevertheless, we regret to say that the OPEC countries seem to have fallen into the U.S.-Western trap. Now the price war -- the war of speculation among the oil countries themselves -- is about to break out at a time when Kuwait and its GCC sisters are trying to prevent this war and adhere to the oil price limit.

Undoubtedly, this war means the destruction of the oil countries and the depletion of their energies and wealth to the advantage of these wolves who planned it. The first beneficiaries of this war are the Western imperialistic countries, while we reap backwardness in our development and construction projects and curb our march of progress in building our generations and countries. We now have to sell great quantities in return for fewer revenues amid international inflation which depletes our oil wealth at a stunning speed.

Anyhow, we previously said that keeping our oil wealth underground is much better than wasting it quickly in a way that only benefits the forces of international exploitation. Now this need is perhaps more decisive than ever because oil will not lose its value or significance whether in the energy field or in that of oil industries and its derivatives. We believe that the best strategy that can be employed toward the price war which is about to start is to decide to keep our oil production in Kuwait and the GCC countries at the lowest level and program our budgets and projects according to the production ceiling which we will set, without exceeding it.

This is the clever, practical, and the best reply to this war of depletion. If this results in a crisis of gas — which is related to more oil production, we must deduce a way to deal with it by authorizing one of our countries to produce more oil to allow for the production of more gas to meet the needs of the GCC countries, perhaps through exchange. Keep oil in its wheels and wells and make more holes in your belts. This is the reply. Oil is not a cheap commodity and those who are playing with the market will see, if we confront them so, that their games will turn against them.

We say this while hoping that factors and hidden pressures will not play their role, and thus our oil will become the victim of political plans which are always against our interests, peoples, and future. If some OPEC members, or even some oil countries outside OPEC, are involved in commitments which oblige them to be dragged into the price war and speculation, we must be wary of this game and immediately draw a plan to conserve our oil wealth through one of the best investments ever -- keeping it underground.

GHALI MEETS ITALY'S COLOMBO IN ROME 28 FEB

NC281744 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali arrived in Rome at noon today for a 1-day working visit to Italy, after which he will fly to New Delhi tomorrow morning.

Upon his arrival, Dr Butrus Ghali met with Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo. The two ministers then continued their discussions at a luncheon given by Colombo in honor of his guest.

Dr Butrus Ghali is scheduled to meet this afternoon with Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran, who is now in Rome. The Egyptian minister will hold a press conference this evening.

Ghali on Mideast Problems

NC282034 Paris AFP in English 2020 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Rome, Feb 28 (AFP) -- Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said here today that it was urgent to find a solution -- even a partial one -- to the Middle East crisis before the United States enters its next presidential campaign.

Mr Ghali, winding up a brief working visit to Italy en route to the non-aligned conference in New Delhi, told a press conference that the time factor was "more important then ever," for once the U.S. presidential campaign began, there would be very little talk in America of the Middle East.

It was also vital, he said, to associate both Jordan and the Palestinians in future negotiations on Palestinian autonomy. Egypt, he added, would only take part in the negotiations if that condition were fulfilled.

He described current Egyptian-Israeli relations as a kind of "cold peace." Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon was a precondition for any improvement in Israeli-Egyptian relations.

He said Egypt had information that Libya tried to instigate a coup in Sudan earlier this month. Proof of the destabilisation bid, he said, included the discovery of a large concentration of Libyan fighter planes near the Al-Kufrah oasis, southern Libya, and the arrival at Port Sudan of a Libyan ship loaded with weapons for a coup in Khartoum.

MUBARAK REVIEWS POLITICAL SITUATION WITH AIDES

NC281313 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak met with the members of the political group this morning. Following the meeting, Muhammad Rashwan, minister of state for People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs, said there was a review of the political situation in general, both at home and abroad, Egyptian-Sudanese relations within the framework of integration between the two countries, and the need to pay attention to popular development through the joint projects between Egypt and Sudan. The meeting also discussed the establishment of a joint Egyptian-Sudanese bank to finance the various projects.

Muhammad Rashwan said the president affirmed that the situation is completely stable in Sudan and that there is full coordination both on the integration level and on the defense and joint security level. He added that the meeting discussed the recent events caused by Libya's attempts to intervene militarily on the border between the two countries. The cooperation which took place between Egypt and Sudan in this connection was lauded.

Muhammad Rashwan said a review was made of the resolutions issued by the PNC meetings. The meeting supported the statement issued by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on the Egyptian people's sacrifice and their defense of the Palestinian people's rights -- a statement which is considered an eloquent reply to the PNC resolutions.

Muhammad Rashwan said the meeting discussed the situation in Lebanon. He said contacts exist between Egypt and Lebanon and that Egypt has always urged the U.S. side to act quickly to bring about the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon and to preserve Lebanon's territorial integrity.

'ALI SAYS EGYPT SEEKS TO REINFORCE DETENTE

NC251538 Cairo MENA in English 1440 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, Feb 25 (MENA) -- Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said today Egypt would endeavour that the forthcoming non-aligned summit conference would reinforce the policy of detente between the two super-powers as against the tendency to tension and confrontation.

In an interview with the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY, 'Ali said the policy of international detente has not yet achieved its cherished objectives, as tension and the armament race mark the relations between the two super-powers. "We hope the non-aligned summit conference would come out with clear programs of action to tackle this problem, stressing the policy of detente between the two super-powers and calling on them to give up tension and confrontation in their relations," he said. The Egyptian foreign minister said economic problems would take up a large share of attention at the non-aligned summit.

"The world is facing serious economic difficulties as a result of the wave of inflation in the industrialized countries, which is exported to the developing countries through international trade," he said. "This wave is accompanied by an economic recession which may exceed that of the nineteen thirties. Under these circumstances, the Non-aligned Movement holds its summit conference. I hope it can lay down an economic program to tighten the relations between the developing countries, and to persuade the industrialized Western countreis to respond to the developing nations' wish for the establishment of a new world economic order which could furnish equilibrium between North and South."

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that at the summit conference, Egypt would seek to safeguard the independence of the Non-aligned Movement between the two world blocs, "as against the desire of some non-aligned countries".

"In recent years," he added, "the Non-aligned Movement witnessed attempts at polarization in which some member-states of the movement campaigned for a certain policy which claimed that non-alignment is the natural ally of one of the two super-powers because, like non-alignment, that power is opposed to imperialism and colonialism. We don't agree with this thesis. It only weakens non-alignment in the international scene. At basis, non-alignment represents a political line that does not support one super-power against another."

The way to avoid polarization, he said, is for the member-states to resist super-power attempts to draw them into their spheres and to resolve the problems between these member states themselves, as the super-powers utilize these problems for their own interests. Kamal Hasan 'Ali will leave for New Delhi on Thursday to take part in the summit conference.

MUHYI AD-DIN ON PALESTINE QUESTION, ARAB PRIORITIES

NC251608 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din has stressed that the Palestine question will remain among the important Arab priorities including the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and its subsequent developments. He warned that the question is coming to a serious turning point.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Dr Muhyi ad-Din expressed the belief that Arab solidarity issues come after the Palestine question, the Lebanese question, and the Iraqi-Iranian war. He emphasized that there is no separation between the dynamics of these priorities as they are all influencing each other and are being influenced by each other at the same time.

The prime minister affirmed that Egypt is prepared to exert its utmost efforts at all levels to serve these questions, expressing the hope that the coming phase will witness the achievement of a strong Arab solidarity that will let the nation emerge from its present situation and realize its capability in the international arena.

COMMENTARY SCORES PNC RESOLUTION ON RELATIONS

NC251518 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani commentary: "Egypt Will Not Abandon its Support of the Palestinian People and Every Arab Cause"]

[Text] It may be painful -- and some facts are painful -- that we should say that the Arab situation, in light of the recent events in the arena, does not promise any good in respect to the Arab cause. However, this is not a call for despair, but on the contrary, it is a call to the forces capable of achieving the hope to increase their efforts and to adhere to their principles.

At the same time the reports on the Libyan plot against Sudan were uncovered -- both being Arab countries -- the PNC resolutions came out to add further to the balance of accounts against the Arabs' interests. What especially pains the Egyptian people -- who are the pioneering Arab people in the struggle arena -- is that the PNC resolutions on Egyptian-PLO relations constitute a stab in the back of the Egyptian people. The Egyptian people never expected that the PNC's attention would focus on rejecting the Camp David accords and related autonomy plans. Egypt had preceded all that by freezing the autonomy negotiations, by insisting that the negotiations should aim at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their firm rights to self-determination and to establish their independent state.

The Egyptian people did not expect the PNC understanding of relations with the Egyptian people to be restricted to supporting the so-called democratic and popular forces seeking to end the Camp David policy. This ignores the fact that all Egyptian forces and political trends rally around the national and pan-Arab goals governing Egyptian foreign policy.

The PNC resolution on relations with Egypt may have been a result of the contradiction in views which is obvious in the other PNC resolutions. The reason for this contradiction is perhaps the explanation stating that these resolutions came to please all the elements in the council, although this is a fabrication of facts.

Nevertheless and despite the fact that the PNC resolution on relations with Egypt leans on the Camp David crutches, we say Egypt has reaffirmed that the Camp David accords do not constitute a final settlement, but are an approach to break the deadlock in the issue. Egypt has affirmed that it supports any other initiative that will achieve this goal and will seize from Israel real commitments in the Palestinian people's interest. Egypt has also stressed that the Palestinian people alone have the final word in everything relating to their question. Egypt, unlike other countries, has no Palestinian organization to speak for it or a group dominating another group for its interest.

What pains the Egyptian people is that the PNC resolutions on Egyptian-Palestinian relations came out in a form denying truth and facts. The Palestinian question was and still is a dear question to every Egyptian. It is the core, starting point, and substance of Egyptian policy. The Egyptian people have waged four wars for the sake of Palestine, in which they sacrificed the lives of their youths, their welfare, and their prosperity.

Though it has left the PLO the freedom of choosing its course, even if it was a course promising no hope, Egypt will not abandon its support of the Palestinian people and of every Arab cause.

ADVANCE PARTY LEAVES FOR NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

NC251640 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] The advance party of the Egyptian delegation to the nonaligned conference, led by Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, the director of organizations and conferences department at the Foreign Ministry, left Cairo for New Delhi today.

Ambassador 'Amr Musa, the Egyptian UN permanent delegate, also left Cairo for New Delhi to join the Egyptian delegation to the conference.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, the Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the presidential office for political affairs, who saw off the delegation, said that the official delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will leave Cairo in succession to attend the nonaligned states foreign ministers conference which begins in New Delhi this coming Thursday.

COMMUNIQUE ON 27-28 FEBRUARY WAR OPERATONS

JN281706 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) -- For the second day running, Iraqi aircraft today raided Iranian enemy positions and concentrations in the Maysan operational sector, and military targets deep inside Iranian territory, scoring direct and effective hits. This was announced in Communique No 1,014, which also noted that an Iraqi military unit attacked an enemy troop concentration in the Mandali sector and killed nine and destroyed one observation post.

The communique mentioned that the Iranian enemy, using artillery, today shelled Basra and Mandali and their environs, causing some damage to civilian installations. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,014 issued by Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The glorious sone of Ar-Rafidayn continue to carry out their valiant activities in the operational sectors against the suspect racist Iranian regime's forces. The following are the results for last night and today:

1. One of our forward units attacked an enemy troop concentration in the central sector, killing nine and destroying one observation post.

2. Our able fighter planes today raided enemy positions and troop concentrations in the Maysan operational sector and military targets deep inside Iranian territory in the southern sector, scoring direct and effective hits. All of our planes returned safely to base after successfully accomplishing their missions.

3. While discharging their tasks in the Maysan operational sectors, our combat patrols discovered quantities of medium- and light-caliber weapons as well as other quantities of military equipment, which all were abandoned by the enemy during the recent Ash-Shib battles.

4. Using artillery, the grudge-bearing Iranian enemy today shelled Basra and Mandali and their environs, causing some damage to civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 February 1983

TRADE MINISTER RECEIVES POLAND'S OBODOWSKI

JN281125 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) -- Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister, received Yanusz Obodowski, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, here today.

During the meeting, which was attended by Polish Foreign Trade Minister Nestorowicz and the Polish ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and cooperation and the ways to promote them in the interest of the two peoples.

RADIO PRAISES SHULTZ STATEMENT ON OCCUPATION

JN281808 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] In a statement to a Senate committee, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said that the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem are territories that are under Israeli occupation. Shultz added that the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem sends its reports directly to the State Department and not to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. Shultz said this is because Washington views these territories as occupied territories by Israel and not part of Israel.

To understand the importance of the U.S. statement we must point out the fact that it was made to a Senate committee, that it was made by the U.S. secretary of state and not by anyone else, and that the U.S. statmeent has been so explicit as to enable us to say that it is the most clear-cut stand the United States has taken on the occupied Arab territories. The va ue of this statement lies in the fact that it puts forth a comprehensive explanation of the Reagan administration's stand on the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the administration's stand on the Israeli policy of settlements and the U.S. stand on peace.

While expressing appreciation for the U.S. Administration's courageous stand, we hope this stand will be substantiated by the practical move it needs. We realize that Washington knows when and how to proceed with this practical move that would push the peace process toward its objectives, namely, the freezing of settlements and then withdrawal.

The hostile policies of the Likud government have placed even its closest allies and friends in an embarrassing position. This government's insistance on pursuing its aggression against rights, justice, and peace have forced these allies and friends to adopt stands that would safeguard values and principles and would prevent military superiority from settling the issue of a fait accompli at the expense of these values and principles.

For a long time, the world has been a bystander while Israel insisted on transforming its occupation into usurpation and annexation. Such a stand would allow the most serious precedent in international relations to take place and thus, such a precedent could become a pattern to which anyone enjoying military superiority could resort. This would herald the destruction of the world and pulverize mankind's aspirations for security, peace, stability, and prosperity.

As a big power, the United States is dutybound to follow up its declared stands with a clear action that would put an end to settlements and occupation. Israel cannot obtain peace and land in one package deal. By insisting on this, Israel will keep the Middle East issue explosive and an arena of struggle that will not serve world peace to which mankind aspires.

We are aware of what the Israeli reaction will be to the Shultz statement, but we also realize that Israel, which insists on living within a fortified camp, is suffering from spiralling inflation, and maintains a military arsenal bigger than it needs, cannot defy the U.S. desire to establish peace because it needs U.S. military, economic, and political support to maintain its occuaption and disperse the inhabitants of the territories it occupies. As has been shown up to now, Washington is not ready anymore to provide such a support for striking world peace and carrying out aggression against rights, justice, and stability through an intensive policy of settlements which will lead to legal annexation.

19TH ROUND OF TALKS BEGINS IN KHALDAH 1 MAR

NC010925 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0910 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation in Khaldah]

[Text] The 19th round of the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations started with a plenary session at 1040 today and saw inflexibility by the Israeli side concerning the Lebanese proposals on mutual relations and security arrangements. The plenary session lasted about 20 minutes after which Dr Dawud as-Sayigh stated the following: At today's plenary session a review was made of the basic stances. The Israeli side expressed a kind of inflexibility concerning the Lebanese proposals on mutual relations and security arrangements. The head of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Antoine Fattal, pointed out that we are in the course of negotiations and are not only presenting stances. Dr Fattal then called for starting the committee's meetings. Immediately thereafter the committee on withdrawals and security arrangements and the committee on mutual relations met.

Fattal, Kimche Confer

NC010949 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0935 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation in Khaldah]

[Text] While the committees on security arrangements and withdrawals and on mutual relations are meeting, Lebanese delegation head Dr Antoine Fattal met separately in a part of the hall with Israeli delegation head David Kimche. It appears that there are attempts to overcome the inflexibility shown by the Israeli side regarding the Lebanese proposals on security arrangements and mutual relations. So far nothing has leaked out about the committees' meetings. It is expected that the picture will be clarified by information or a statement to be issued by those meeting.

Subcommittees Continue Negotiations

NC011037 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1013 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation in Khaldah in Arabic and English; processed from English]

[Text] The 19th round of negotiations this morning in Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah between Lebanon and Israel started at 1020 following intensive talks which here held for the past weekend in the presidential palace in B'abda between the American side represented by U.S. special envoy to the region Philip Habib with top Lebanese officials. Following the lengthy meetings both sides were speculating on a possible first narrowing of the differences existing in the viewpoints of both Israel and Lebanon. Anyway, this morning the conferees began negotiating in a plenary session at exactly at 1020. This session lasted only 20 minutes during which a general review of the basic positions of each side was made.

The Israeli side showed some intransigence concerning the latest Lebanese proposals as to the mutual relations and the security arrangements. The official spokesman for the Lebanese delegation, Dawud as-Sayigh declared that at the opening of the plenary the head of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Antoine Fattal, declared that the conferees were negotiating rather than exposing positions and attitudes.

Following this declaration by Dr Fattal, the delegates split to meet in subcommittees. The subcommittees for withdrawals, security arrangements, and mutual relations are now meeting. We are waiting for whatever may come up from their negotiations. In any case we will be with you and reporting on anything that may come up at any moment.

AL-WAZZAN ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL, OTHER ISSUES

PM261123 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 25 Feb 83 pp 20-22

[Interview with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan by 'Izzat Safi in Beirut -- date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: So far, 14 sessions of negotiations with Israel have been held and the results do not augur well. Where are we heading?

Al-Wazzan: If there had been no difficult and complicated issues to be discussed there would have been no need for negotiations and there would not have been so many sessions; nor would we be in a vicious circle.

The negotiations are conducted through subcommittees, each of which discusses a specific subject. This is in order to probe things and define matters so it will be possible in the end to draw conclusions regarding a potential agreement within the lines we have drawn for ourselves; whether regarding our full sovereignty and dignity or our ties with the Arab family, ties that we care for in the same way we care for our entity and dignity.

AL-HAWADITH: Could you explain to me the U.S. role following the invasion and particularly following the siege of Beirut? Has Washington honored its pledges? The answer to this question concerns the credibility of the U.S. role in the current negotiations with Israel.

Al-Wazzan: Throughout the invasion and particularly during the siege of Beirut, the Lebanese feeling was that Lebanon had been left to face an unjust fate and overwhelming designs and actions that were escalating all the time. At that time, we were being visited by political, popular, journalistic, medical, and humanitarian missions from all parts of the world with the exception of the Arab world. When the calamity was at its peak there was a total Arab absence. Had it not been for the effective diplomatic efforts by the Saudi Kingdom and His Majesty King Fahd, which helped to ease some of the calamities that befell Lebanon in general and Beirut in particular, and had it not been for some individual efforts here and there, it would have been possible to say that there was a total Arab absence for Lebanon.

In view of this and in the face of the Israeli invasion, we found nobody to help us to curb it and to check the destructive Israeli actions other than the United States. As is known, it is the only country capable of influencing Israel and compelling it to adopt certain attitudes when the situation calls for it.

Indeed, the U.S. efforts to this end effectively curbed the ferociousness of the invasion and contained the destruction that was wrought on Beirut and its southern suburbs. At that time, we obtained a U.S. pledge that Israel would not enter West Beirut and its southern suburbs, that there would be withdrawals from Lebanese territory not later than the end of last year, and that the Lebanese state would be helped to consolidate its power and impose its sovereignty over all the Lebanese territories. But there was a serious violation despite these pledges and undertakings in that Israel actually entered West Beirut and the suburbs and the terrible massacres occurred soon afterwards. The withdrawals have not taken place, the occupation unfortunately still continues, and there is still serious instability in the situation, particularly in the mountains and in the north.

All this does not stop our recognizing the efforts that the United States has made and is still making in order to extricate Lebanon from its sorry state. At the present stage we feel these U.S. efforts and their effect most in the current negotiations in both Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona. We find that the U.S. position is closer to the Lebanese side and its fair, just, and logical stands that are based on the rights of every state to sovereignty on all its national soil. In this regard we still depend on the U.S. stand and, in all circumstances, consider that the credibility of this stand is the touchstone as far as we, the Arab world and the whole world, are concerned.

AL-HAWADITH: How true is it that the United States has 99 percent of the cards for a solution in its hands. Where are Lebanon's cards, the Arab countries' cards and the Soviet Union's cards? Where are Western Europe's cards?

Al-Wazzan: I refer you back to my asnwer to the previous question. With regard to confrontation with Israel there is no dobut that only the United States can influence Israel and its stands. Lebanon's cards for a solution are no doubt fundamental and there can be no solution without them. The strength and effectiveness of these cards will increase as the internal situation improves and the country becomes united, particularly in the face of Israel and regarding withdrawals and future arrangements.

Where are the Soviet Union's cards? It must be pointed out here that the Soviet Union has no influence on Israel and that its relations with some of the Arab countries and the Palestinian problem is different from U.S. relations with the Zionist cause. I also wonder where are Brezhnev's [as published] proposals regarding the Middle East problem? Where are the Soviet plans and practical proposals regarding the present situation in Lebanon?

AL-HAWADITH: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said that he fears that the Israeli presence and the Syrian presence in Lebanon might lead to the partitioning of Lebanon. To what extent is this fear justified and who would be responsible for such an outcome?

Al-Wazzan: We have an understanding with the Syrian brothers on the conditions and time of their withdrawal. While there are still differences and heated arguments with the Israelis in which we have been unable to reach a satisfactory agreement on the condition and timing of their withdrawal, most of their proposals in this regard are still contrary to our principles of total preservation of sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and the higher interests of Lebanon and of the Arab brothers. Therefore, the causes of the continued alien presence on Lebanese territory are evident and clear. The responsibility for the continuation of this situation and the results that it may lead to, including the possibility of partitioning which the U.S. secretary of state spoke about, are also obvious. But once again I would say that the unity of the Lebanese will remain the protective shield against all dangers and it alone is capable of overcoming all the negative effects.

AL-HAWADITH: The Saudi Kingdom has warned Lebanon against becoming involved in agreements with Israel that might take it out of the Arab world. Indeed, there have been direct Saudi warnings to this effect. Can you risk your relations with Saudi Arabia in particular, and what will be left for you in the Arab world if you lose Saudi support? How will you get out of this predicament?

Al-Wazzan: Saudi officials have made no such warnings. In the fraternal dealings between us and Saudi Arabia, there is nothing to justify the issuing of warnings as you said. We are in constant contact and consultation with the Saudi brothers.

Lebanon's stand on the question of agreement with Israel is known full well to everyone. It is a sound nationalist stand that stems from Lebanon's convictions and not the convictions and stands of others. Lebanon is part of the Arab world and under no circumstances, however hard and difficult, will it abandon this stand.

AL-HAWADITH: The Lebanese Government refuses to allow Israel to establish early warning stations in Lebanon, but it is being said that it might allow the United States to establish such stations.

Al-Wazzan: This is out of the question.

AL-HAWADITH: But in the event such stations are established who will they be for?

Al-Wazzan: Neither the United States nor Israel.

'SOURCES' CITED ON SOVIET MATERIEL TO SYRIA

NC281240 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut told the Voice of Lebanon that the Soviet Union recently supplied Syria with two radar airplanes similar to the U.S. AWACS airplanes and that a number of Soviet experts are using the two planes between Al-Mazzah military airport and other airports inside Syria.

The same sources added that the Soviet Union has brought a number of modern radar sets to Syria and that Soviet experts are installing them in a number of positions near Damascus.

ISRAELI REINFORCEMENTS REPORTED IN AL-BIQA'

NC010703 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Reports from western Al-Biqa' have indicated that the Israeli forces have continued, after the snowstorm ended, their military movements as well as their reinforcements of men and materiel in the front position: the IDF has brought more Merkava heavy tanks to the front on huge vehicles. These tanks were distributed in strategic positions in the hills of Bakka, Kamid al-Lawz and the Kifrayya axis. Meanwhile, senior Israeli staff officers have madean inspection tour of the Al-Biqa' and acquainted themselves with the current preparations on the Syrian side of the front.

AL-JUMAYYIL MEETS WITH U.S. NEGOTIATING TEAM

NC261244 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] The Lebanese and U.S. sides today resumed their meetings to review the points which are still a subject of difference following the three meetings which were held at the presidential palace yesterday morning and afternoon.

President Amin al-Jumayyil this morning met with Ambassador Philip Habib, Morris Draper, and Christopher Ross to make a complete appraisal of the questions under discussion before the U.S. envoy leaves Lebanon for Israel tomorrow. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Salim joined the meeting later.

What is clear so far is that the points of divergence between Lebanon and Israel are sensitive and basic. Ambassador Habib will try to understand the Lebanese principles which the government is following and safeguard these principles, foremost of which is the principle of sovereignty, in order to appraise Israel's stance on them and determine what it can accept and what it will reject, so that he will be well informed of all stands to prepare consequently what has been termed as compromise proposals or U.S. alternatives to the points which cannot be accepted by the Lebanese and Israeli sides.

The drafting committee, which yesterday was formed of Ambassador Draper and leader of the Lebanese negotiating delegation Dr Antoine Fattal, today resumed its meetings to draft the articles agreed upon and prepare a general framework for them.

MONDAY MORNING INTERVIEW WITH MILITARY PROSECUTOR

NC280945 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 21-27 Feb 83 pp 40-46

[Military Prosecutor As-'Ad Jirmanus interviewed by MONDAY MORNING correspondent Claude Khuri -- date and place not given]

[Excerpt] The investigation of the February 5 bomb off Ras Beirut's Sadat Street was being handled by investigating magistrate Munir Hunayn, Jirmanus said, "and I believe we will arrive at positive results in the near future."

The general impression, I told him, was that the Israelis were behind the Sadat bomb. Did he have any clues to confirm or deny the suspicion?

"We now have enough evidence pertaining to the car used and the man who placed it, and we are looking for him," he said. "When I arrest him, he will tell me if the Israelis were or were not behind the bomb. Until then, I can say nothing about this.

"What I can say is that the bomb was the work of an intelligence service -- not the work of an amateur or any single individual or any small group. Behind that explosion was an intelligence service, and that service's target was those two buildings, for obvious reasons. What intelligence service? I don't know yet."

Investigation into the smaller explosion which damaged the offices of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY (SANA) in Ras Beirut on February 3 had not made as much progress as the Sadat bomb explosion, Jirmanus said, "and I blame the landlord of the building for that. The bomb exploded at five or six in the morning, and he didn't inform the Lebanese police until 11:00 a.m. -- he informed the multinational force, but not the police, and we have sent after him to ask him why."

Did he think the people behind the Sadat bomb were also behind the SANA bomb?

"Why do you want me to link the two before I even know who is behind the Sadat bomb?" Jirmanus asked.

He added: "You know the people behind these bombs and the others we have discovered as well as I do. For eight years, you and I have lived among them. They are all the foreigners -- and all the Lebanese associated with those foreigners -- who have taken advantage of instability in this country and want that instability to continue."

Which foreigners, specifically?

"Anybody who is not Lebanese is a foreigner. But to me, the most criminal element is the Lebanese who collaborate with those foreigners to destroy his homeland and the country of his children."

Was he referring to the Israelis, the Syrians and the Palestinians?

"Yes. I don't mean the multinational force. They haven't done anything to us so far, thank God."

Was he saying that the Israelis, the Syrians and the Palestinians bore equal responsibility for the wave of terrorism?

I would like to emphasize that the Surete Generale is doing a very good job. Until recently, many aliens had no work permits, others had forged identity papers -- but now that sort of thing is being taken care of. I'm not trying to evade your question: 'Foreigner,' as far as I'm concerned, is 'non-Lebanese.' Anybody non-Lebanese who is here on an illegal basis is a source of trouble. All those foreigners don't want Lebanon to be stable and calm. I am urging the Lebanese not to collaborate with them, and those who do collaborate with them will be prosecuted to the full extent of the Lebanese law."

I reminded him that when I had interviewed him after a 1982 bomb wave, he had told me that he knew who the terrorists were but was not at liberty to identify them.

"I know what you're going to ask me: Why am I not at liberty to identify them this year? Well, there are secret investigations going on and I cannot reveal names -- what other country would in these circumstances? It isn't that I can't do it; it's that I shouldn't. I am committed to secrecy."

But didn't he think that public identification of the perpetrators would act as a form of deterrent and help bring terrorism under control?

"This is going to happen," Jirmanus said. "We are even planning public trials. These will come, I hope, in one or one and a half months, and it will be the first time in 10 years. We must judge these people without any mercy whatsoever."

Some perpetrators, he reminded me, had already been identified. A Lebanese woman, a Palestinian and a Syrian had been arrested two weeks earlier, charged with attempting to blow up the Lebanon Beach Hotel (where the Lebanese-Israeli-American talks are going on) and shown on Lebanese television.

But what state or party was behind those three?

"Definitely not us," Jirmanus laughed. "You know who's behind them as well as I do."

The foreigners?

"The foreigners."

Without specifying which foreigners?

"To specify them would be to make a pre-judgement, and I wouldn't like to do that."

But while pre-judgements were ruled out and officialdom avoided offending anyone, the people of Beirut were in a state of panic, looking for a bomb under every car. Was it true that there were 10 booby-trapped cars floating around the capital right now?

"True, including a diesel tanker truck, and we have published the descriptions and license numbers of those cars. In fact, we have got information two weeks ago that 20 booby-trapped vehicles had been brought into Beirut. We have found ten of them and ten remain to be found. You were a witness yourself: When you came into my office, you heard the officer tell me that a booby-trapped car and its owner had been found, and we have been able to find out -- or at least guess -- who it was that rigged the explosives. We have sent for the suspect, and I expect results very soon."

Results didn't come soon enough to prevent the Sadat explosion and save 100 lives, I pointed out.

"Knowing about the 20 booby-trapped cars doesn't mean that there aren't other explosives that we don't know about," Jirmanus said. "We have defused four or five bombs in the past few days, other than the 10 booby-trapped cars we found. The presence of the army cannot prevent all terrorist attacks. Our intelligence services are good, and they gather a great deal of information which is immediately distributed to all army roadblocks, and, more recently, to the mass media -- a new method we have adopted. But not a single state in the world can stop terrorist attacks 100 percent. All we can do is work hard, anticipate, act quickly and try to deter and frighten the terrorists."

Wouldn't the anti-terrorist drive be more successful if the army was supplied with sophisticated bomb detectors?

"A plan to increase detection machines has already started," Jimanus said. "Some of those machines have been ordered, and they should be delivered in 15 days or so. Where will we station them? I can't tell you -- you must leave us our little secrets. At the same time, we are overhauling the military police -- bringing in younger people and more modern techniques, injecting a new spirit.

"More important than the detection machines are the intelligence services. Who do you think found out about the 20 booby-trapped cars? For your information, there are 18 officers and aides working 18 hours a day to anticipate the terrorists' next move. The intelligence service is the most important element. It is the most efficient means of combatting this kind of violence, although it is being criticized right and left. They call it the Deuxieme Bureau, or the intelligence directorate, or the Surete Generale, but call it what they may, without it we cannot stop this kind of terrorism."

People's complaints about the Army's anti-terrorist actions were incomprehensible, Jirmanus told me. "We break into a building some night and the man who has to leave his apartment in his pajamas can't stop complaining. What is better -- to leave the house in your pajamas for four hours, or stay in and have the building collapse on your head? Let the people choose.

"We are doing everything possible within our means -- we're even doing the impossible -- to provide at least Beirut with security. But wherever there is an Army roadblock or a house search or a police raid, people start shouting about the murder of freedom! We may be bothering people, but we're doing it to protect them. We have received very precise orders from the president of the republic: democracy and freedom, especially individual freedom, must come before everything else. But these are troubled times. Do the people who complain about a police raid know that this raid may spare us five terrorist explosions? The citizen who complains about a roadblock or a raid by the military police -- this same citizen will malign us if his building is blown up because we failed to put up roadblocks or mount raids.

"Let them complain! Nothing will stop us. We will provide security and freedom. Those are the orders we have received from the president."

Complaints about "arbitrary arrests" and prison conditions were equally unjustified, Jirmanus said.

"We arrest only those against whom we have definite proof. If my cousin, brother or son is arrested on terrorism charges, there is no reason why he should be released a few hours later because he is my cousin, brother or son. I am addressing a certain class of society who have grown accustomed to such things as 'the Lebanese way': cousin or no cousin, a criminal is a criminal.

"As for conditions in prison, I seize this opportunity to tell your readers that a group of journalists visited the prisoners recently and wrote about their treatment. Every prisoner has the right to get a lawyer and receive visitors. He gets three visits from the doctor every week. He gets three meals a day, and eats exactly what the Lebanese soldier eats, not counting what his relatives bring him -- which is unheard of in other countries. The journalists saw the prisoners eating chicken; show me one jail anywhere else that serves the prisoners chicken at the state's expense. Sanitary problems are also taken care of. Water is often cut in Beirut, but we are providing the prisoners with tanks of water. I think they should stop criticizing us.

"Those who are criticizing us and shouting for freedom -- what freedom did they leave for the Lebanese over the past eight years? Only they had the freedom -- the freedom to kill all freedoms."

Many of the complaints, I said, centered on the fact that the raids and arrests were limited to West Beirut.

"They are done wherever they are found necessary," Jirmanus said. "There was a state of anarchy in West Beirut which did not prevail in East Beirut. Let's be honest: There is a certain structure, a certain calm in East Beirut which did not exist in West Beirut. The West Beirut problem is much bigger. By concentrating on West Beirut, we are not trying to offend the people of West Beirut but to please them: They must understand that we are trying to take care of them.

"Have we arrested more Moslems thatn Christians? I never prepare statistics of that sort, and I hate it when that kind of question is asked. None of the killers killed in the name of Islam or Christianity.

"Whether they're Moslems or Christians, Lebanese or foreign, they're criminals. The man who planted the Sadat bomb -- did he know if he was going to kill Moslems or Christians? In my opinion, this harping on sectarian or factional issues is for the protection of the criminals, and the mass media are encouraging this by their approach and their tone. Anyone who has to be arrested will be arrested, whether he is Christian or Moslem, because it was neither in the name of Jesus Christ nor in the name of the Prophet that he committed his crime. One detainee once started talking to me in terms of Christianity, and I told him: 'You're in prison because you're a criminal, so what does Jesus have to do with it?'

"So far, the raids have been concentrated on West Beirut because there are more arms hidden there, but if crimes, terrorist attacks and violence occur in East Beirut, they will be dealt with in the same way."

But there were plenty of arms in East Beirut, I said, weren't there?

"We will look for them, I assure you we will look for them, and the law will be applied wherever legality is present."

What about the Bashir al-Jumayyil inquiry into the assassination of the elected president in East Beirut on September 14? Had any progress been made in the investigation?

"That is not my work. The matter is in the hands of the higher court of justice, and so is the investigation of the attempted assassination of Walid Junblatt (in West Beirut on December 1)."

And the inquiry into the massacre in the Sabra-Shatila camps?

"We are going on with our work. Let them leave us alone and stop interfering in our work," Jirmanus said, adding:

"I don't want to sound like I'm flattering the head of state, but I would point out that when President al-Jumayyil ordered the inquiry on September 24, 1982, he acted very courageously and with a great sense of democracy: At that time, remember, the territory was occupied and, according to international law, as Mr Fattal has pointed out, we were theoretically not the competent authority to launch an inquiry, since Sabra and Shatila were under foreign occupation. In spite of this, and despite the fact that many of those who were killed were in Lebanon on an illegal basis, President al-Jumayyil ordered an inquiry. Remember the difficulties we had on September 24 -- the smoke was still there, we were walking in the mud, but we still made a preliminary inquiry. Let them stop comparing us with other inquiry commissions who sat behind their desks and had all the means at their disposal. Let them give us more time."

How much more time?

"I am not working full-time on this investigation, but I am spending a lot of time on it, helped by assistants whose names I cannot divulge. I am asking for at least one and a half months."

Could he give us an idea of his preliminary findings?

"Wait for the final report."

Had he determined how many were killed in the massacre?

"We know the number, the international investigators know the number, and when the inquiry is completed, we will give exact information on how many were killed, their nationalities, their sex and thei age."

"My job is to complete the inquiry. It is up to the Lebanese Government to decide whether to make it public or not."

Some foreign news agencies, I pointed out, were already predicting that the results of the Lebanese investigation would never be known to the public.

"Let them say what they want. I don't care. I do my job, and the rest is none of my business. But who says we will not make it public?"

When President al-Jumayyil came to power, the security situation in Beirut began to calm down, I told him, but as of a few weeks ago, the violence began escalating again. What did he attribute this to?

"There are people who don't like it when things calm down," he said. "The 'small boutiques' have no interest in a return to security, because security puts them on the unemployment list.

"As far as I'm concerned, this new wave of violence is a positive sign. It means everything is going well -- otherwise, if the situation were bad, they wouldn't try to disrupt everything. The fact that order is being restored is bothering a lot of people, the people who used to benefit from the state of anarchy."

He added: "Since President al-Jumayyil took office, violence in Beirut has decreased by 80 percent, and we are now trying to bring the remaining 20 percent under control. This 20 percent is the end of the nightmare.

"Again, I don't want to sound like I'm flattering the president, but I feel it in my bones: There is a renewal under way. All we ask is that the citizens and the public services help the president -- he wants to restore order and sovereignty.

"I am addressing myself in particular to the mothers who send their children to school. Remember what it was like last year? Remember when terrorism was our daily bread? Remember the attacks on the embassies, the murder of ambassadors, the diplomatic corps running away, the streets of West Beirut as night...? People tend to forget."

Did he think that the remaining "20 percent" violence, the last stages of the nightmare, would be easier to eliminate now that the Army had deployed in East Beirut?

"The calmer the situation becomes, the more terrorism loses its raison d'etre, and the further we move towards sovereignty and unity, the more terrorism will dwindle. Terrorism is a factor of war."

But wouldn't the demilitarization of East Beirut have a direct effect on reducing the violence in "greater Beirut"?

"Yes, I agree, but send your wishes to the terrorists. Maybe they are against the demilitarization of great Beirut.

"Our role," Jirmanus concluded, "is to try to foresee, forecast and preempt terrorist attacks, but remember that you have terrorism in every country in the world."

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES LIBYA'S JALLUD

JN281818 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA) -- At 1730 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the great 1 September Revolution leadership in Libya. During the meeting, which was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the talks focused on the relations and cooperation between the two fraternal countries, and on the state of affairs in the area.

MINISTER AL-'ATTAR ON USSR MIDEAST POSITION

JN281430 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] In Damascus, Minister of Culture Najah al-'Attar has expressed the conviction that the USSR will not leave the Middle East at the mercy of the United States and Israeli belligerency. She added that the USSR position this year will be stiffer than that during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

It may be recalled that Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens had made statements in which he did not rule out a preemptive Israeli strike against Syria should USSR missiles continue to be deployed in Syria.

POPULAR ARMY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM MOSCOW

JN282008 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1913 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA) -- Comrade Muhammad Ibrahim al-'Ali, commander of the Popular Army, and his delegation returned to Damascus from Moscow this evening after participating in the ninth conference of the Soviet voluntary society for the promotion of the army, aviation, and navy which was held in Moscow 16-19 February.

Comrade al-'Ali delivered Syria's speech at the conference, affirming the depth of the continuously developing friendly relationship between the USSR and Syria, which is considered to be the solid strategic line for joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism, particularly at this crucial stage for the Arab homeland.

LORD CARRINGTON LEAVES DAMASCUS 28 FEB

JN281516 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA) -- Lord Carrington, former British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, left Damascus this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to Syria during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

He was seen off at the airport by Sulayman Haddad, director of the Foreign Ministry's Western Europe Department; Misbah ad-Dalati, the Foreign Ministry protocol director; and the British ambassador in Damascus.

REPORTS ON 28 FEBRUARY HABIB-SHAMIR MEETING

Schiffer Report

TA281146 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1110 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] NEWSWEEK reports today that the withdrawal from Lebanon will begin on Passover eve, and that if it does not, Philip Habib will admit his failure and be replaced by one of the two former officials: Kissinger or Carter. This is the more-or-less relevant background to Philip Habib's conversation with Foreign Minister Shamir in Jerusalem today.

Here is a report by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, who is currently at the Foreign Ministry:

[Schiffer -- live] Philip Habib denies the reports that preceded his arrival in Jerusalem, alleging that he has reached an agreement with the Lebanese Government on arrangements with Israel. This is absolute rubbish, he told Yitzhaq Shamir, in the meeting that lasted nearly 2 hours, of which the latter part was a tete-a-tete.

What then did Habib bring with him? He said the Lebanese are raising proposals that would promote the negotiations. Lebanon is presently suggesting interim arrangements with Israel in the sphere of normalization that would become effective immediately after the IDF withdrawal. According to this proposal, the transfer of people and goods between the two countries will take place immediately upon the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. Additional ideas Habib presented related to the field of security. An agreement [haskama] already exists between the two countries that limitations will be imposed on the number of forces and means of warfare in the security zone of about 40 to 50 km. The Lebanese, staunchly supported by the United States, oppose any sort of Israeli presence in southern Lebanon after the pullback.

At their meeting, Yitzhaq Shamir said that it would be possible to discuss the interim arrangements proposed in the sphere of normalization if it becomes clear that an actual normalization [hasdarat] of full relations between the two countries is involved.

As for the security arrangements, the foreign minister repeated the Israeli position that there must be some kind of Israeli presence, in whatever form, in southern Lebanon for an agreed-upon, limited period of time, and that only that way would it be possible to observe security.

Habib will remain in Israel a couple of days, and has no plans to go to Damascus in the meantime, because no one there wants to see him.

Regarding the reports that the United States has set a target date for the completion of the negotiations, and that this is the end of March, a possible confirmation may have been attainable from various personalities last night, but one must emphasize that this has no effective significance or meaning. One must remember that the previous target date set by the United States was the end of last year, when there was even talk that the soldiers would go back home on Christmas. Today there is talk about Easter.

One last thing that pertains to the Foreign Ministry employees: Beginning tomorrow, the Foreign Ministry workers both in Israel and abroad will not work beyond 1800. This is the first step they will undertake in their struggle for recognition of the unique nature of their work here.

What is interesting to note is that the Norwegian foreign minister is due here today. Beginning tomorrow at 1800, he will be left without the official chaperons who are supposed to escort him on behalf of the Foreign Ministry, as the workers' union has told us that these measures will continue and even escalate.

At the same time, they expressed their appreciation of the work done by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who continues to make extraordinary efforts on their behalf to obtain the objectives they seek in the realm of the special character of their pay.

[unidentified announcer] Shim'on Schiffer, may I for just a moment get you to readdress yourself to NEWSWEEK, and particularly to this lovely candidacy of Carter and/or Kissinger?

[Schiffer] The candidacy of Carter and Kissinger crops up every time the negotiations with Lebanon reach a total deadlock, and this is not the first time their candidacy has been mentioned. THE NEW YORK TIMES, if we recall, already some weeks back called on the U.S. Administration to place Kissinger at the head of the negotiations for all the peace arrangements in the region, because everyone agrees that not only Israeli-Lebanese arrangements, but a comprehensive arrangement is involved that should be accelerated and brought to some kind of conclusion. Many U.S. Administration figures, but more so the U.S. media, do not believe Philip Habib is the right man to bring this process to a successful conclusion.

[Question] What is interesting now is the link between this and the second festive date, Passover eve?

[Answer] As I have already said, this is another date, after an earlier one had been set and passed, which is why it is always necessary to set another target date 3 months hence. If I may voice an opinion here, I would say that the likelihood is slim that a solution will actually be found by that date, because even today Habib has no reply from the Syrians on whether they would agree to leave Lebanon, because even if Lebanon, the United States and Israel reach an agreement among them, there is still no guarantee that the Syrians will agree to. Therefore things are still very much in a fog and inconculsive.

[Question] Isn't it nice that Carter will be coming to Tel Aviv not only to receive the honorary PhD?

[Answer] It seems to me that this evaluation would be premature. This trip by Carter to Israel has long been in the planning, and the visit will be carried out regardless. One can hardly assume that the present participants in the arrangements, and the negotiations -- certainly in the incumbent U.S. Administration -- would ask the democratic president to head this process.

Interim Arrangement Proposal

TA281158 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1145 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib today presented a Lebanese proposal for interim arrangements in the sphere of normalization to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. According to the proposal, temporary arrangements will be effected between the two countries for 6 months, at the end of which negotiations on the final agreement will be held.

Foreign Minister Shamir told Habib in reaction that Israel would be prepared to discuss the proposal if it transpires that the interim arrangements would guarantee a framework of de facto relations between Israel and Lebanon.

Habib also told the foreign minister that the Lebanese are now prepared to have a 45-km wide security strip, and have gone back on their demand [tvi'atam] for two limited security strips.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel notes that the U.S. envoy did not bring with him any new suggestions regarding the basic disputed issues, which are the role of UNIFIL and the nature of the IDF presence in southern Lebanon.

Failure To Bridge Gaps

TA281814 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] With Philip Habib's tour in the region and various media reports about compromise proposals about the early warning stations in Lebanon as the background, the Israeli and Lebanese delegation will convene in Khaldah tomorrow for the 18th round of talks. Despite these reports, our correspondent reports that a breakthrough has not occurred in the disputed issues and that even with his compromise proposals, Habib has not succeeded in bridging large gaps on several questions. In anticipation of the Khaldah meeting tomorrow, our correspondent Roni Daniyel reports:

[Begin recording] None of Philip Habib's proposals mentions that Haddad's soldiers will replace IDF soldiers in the observation posts or the early warning stations and such a notion was not raised in any other meeting. Therefore, the issue of the early warning stations -- or, as they are known, the observation posts -- remains in dispute; there is no change in the positions and the gap is still large. The same holds true regarding UNIFIL troops and the pace of the implementation of the normalization which have been agreed on in principle. These are the stumbling blocks which Habib, in his present mission, has not yet managed to remove.

Authoritative Israeli sources think an agreement will be reached within several weeks. However, Israel has already made its implementation conditional on Syrian consent to a mutual evacuation of Lebanon and to the return of the prisoners and the missing soldiers. Hence, Habib is in the region mainly to deal with the Syrian evacuation which has not yet been thoroughly dealt with. It is feared that this point will delay the implementation of the agreement which everybody believes will be attained.

There have been 17 meetings so far. In addition to the agreements in principle, mention is made of the end to hostilities, the definition of the security zone and the limitations to be imposed on it, the issue of Israeli supervision over the area, the integration of Haddad's soldiers in the Lebanese Army and the prevention of the infiltration of hostile forces into both countries. U.S. consent has been attained regarding several issues, namely to guarantee [la'arov] the implementation of the agreed-upon clauses.

There has not yet been a breakthrough on the disputed issues and there is no doubt whatsoever that the meeting in Khaldah tomorrow will also not bring any new tidings on this matter. Nevertheless, a change in approach that has just now begun to emerge on these issues may advance a solution to within a few weeks. [end recording]

Target Date for Withdrawal

TA281225 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Our political correspondent reports that Israel may raise a proposal in the next few days that the IDF soldiers would share the patrolling of the security strip with Haddad's forces.

At the end of his meeting with Shamir, Habib talked to reporters and denied reports emanating from Lebanon that he had reached an agreement on a draft arrangement with the Lebanese authorities.

Meanwhile, various sources in Jerusalem have confirmed the reports that the United States has placed a target date for the completion of the negotiations -- the end of March -- at which time the forces will begin to withdraw.

KIMCHE STRESSES ISRAELI STANDS AT KHALDAH TALKS

TA011010 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The Israeli and Lebanese delegations began their deliberations in Khaldah in two subcommittees about an hour ago. The subcommittees are the military committee and the one for mutual relations. At a short plenary session, the head of the Israeli delegation, David Kimche, stressed that Israel was adhering to its position on all the disputed questions. This came against the background of the publicity over the last few days saying that a change had occurred in Israel's position.

TENSION BETWEEN IDF, UN IN BEIRUT AREA REPORTED

TA281732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] There has been intense tension in the last few days between IDF units in the Beirut area and the UN observers. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that according to an agreement reached by Israel and Lebanon 50 UN observers came to the Beirut area. The agreement stipulated that the observers would only operate in the Beirut area. However, it has emerged that in the last few days the observers expanded their sphere of action, particularly in the Beirut-Damascus highway area. They follow IDF movements and record the type of vehicles driving in the area. They then relay this information to the UN center in New York.

Our correspondent points out that Israel regards this action as a security offense and as an act more befitting an intelligence service. IDF commanders in the area have asked for a meeting with the commanders of the observers in order to set the jurisdiction of the area but the latter said they received instructions from New York to refrain from holding such a meeting.

Our correspondent has also learned that UN observers told a U.S. television crew that IDF soldiers had entered populated areas in the Ash-Shuf mountains and had shot civilians. A U.S. officer told reporters that IDF soldiers had threatened to kill them. As said, attempts by IDF officers to confer with the observers have failed.

HADDAD'S FORCES TAKE UP NEW POSITION IN SIDON

TA271911 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Major Sa'd Haddad's forces took up a new position today in Sidon port. Eyewitnesses reported that several of the militiamen, with the support of an armored personnel carrier, took over a roadblock that had been Israeli near the IDF military governor's office in the school in the northern part of the town. Those witnesses added that there was no sign of an Israeli presence today in the school that had been a target for attacks by bombs and machineguns over the previous few months.

COMMERCIAL TIES WITH LEBANON REPORTED

TA010734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Israel will not harm Lebanon's economic system and will continue to prevent the export of goods and agricultural produce that compete with Lebanese produce. This was said by Minister of Commerce and Industry Gid'on Pat. Minister Pat expects the economic ties between Israel and Egypt to be renewed as soon as the political negotiations with Lebanon are concluded. Gabi Zohar reports on this:

[Zohar -- live or recorded] The commerical ties between Israel and Lebanon, although they do not exist on an official plane, have become a firm fact since the border between the two countries was opened. To date Israel has exported to Lebanon goods worth tens of millions of dollars. Many of these goods have been sold to Lebanese businessmen in original Israeli wrappings and, from Lebanon, they made their way to Arab countries' markets. Over the last few months economic elements in Lebanon have repeatedly claimed that the import of various goods and agricultural produce from Israel is bringing about the destruction of the Lebanese economy. Minister Gid'on Pat rejects this claim and stresses that his ministry will continue to ban the export of products competitive to Lebanese produce:

[Begin Pat recording] We have set a policy of not spoiling and not interfering with Lebanon's economic system. If we can help, fine; but spoiling, certainly not. Therefore I have not permitted Israeli businessmen, Israeli importers, to cross the border and turn into importers and take the place of Lebanese importers of Lebanese merchants. The Lebanese merchants come here and buy freely. We will continue to do this. As I said, there are goods that disturb them we will not let them be exported from Israel. [end recording]

[Zohar] Although there are no official economic relations with the Government of Lebanon, the scope of commerce with that country is much greater than that of commerce with Egypt. Minister Gid'on Pat admits that, the freeze on commercial relations between Israel and Egypt is continuing. The attempt to thaw this freeze will, according to Minister Pat, come after the signing of the agreement with Lebanon. However, in Pat's view, Israel's commerical relations with Lebanon will continue, in the future, to be conducted on a much greater scale than commercial relations with Egypt.

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE TO BEGIN

TA281305 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 83 pp 1, 7

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi]

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent Prime Minister Menahem Begin a personal message via Max Fisher, one of the Jewish Agency leaders who visited him at the end of the week. In the letter, Mubarak emphasizes his loyalty to the peace agreement with Israel and his firm decision to guard it.

Mubarak expressed the hope that Israel would soon withdraw from Lebanon, so the relations between Israel and Egypt could be improved. In a conversation, Mubarak told Fischer that he had advised the PLO leaders to recognize Israel very soon, as he had told King Husayn to accelerate his joining the peace process because time is not working to their benefit.

TALKS WITH EGYPT ON TABAH TO RESUME 2 MAR

TA281951 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] The talks between Israel and Egypt on settling the Tabah dispute will open in Ismailia the day after tomorrow. At first stage the parties will try to determine interim arrangements for the continuation of normal life in the disputed area unitl its permanent status is decided and agreed upon. The Israeli delegation will consist of the assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, Shmu'el Divon, and the Israeli representative on the joint Israeli-Egyptian Military Committee, Brigadier General Dov Si'ion. In 2 weeks the Israeli and Egyptian representatives will discuss a resolution to the deadlock in the normalization between the two countries.

MINES IN NEGEV PLACED BY 'TERRORISTS FROM EGYPT'

TA280835 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 83 p 3

[Report by Mordekhay Artzi'eli]

[Excerpt] The highest probability is that it was terrorists who crossed the border from Egypt who placed the two mines that caused the deaths of five bedouin last Thursday, 24 February, during the night, south of Kibbutz E'elim. This was reported by the security circles who are carrying out the investigation.

The two antivehicle mines were placed on a path along which IDF vehicles travel almost every day, and on Wednesday, the day before the explosion, IDF vehicles did travel along this path. No footprints were discovered because of the rain.

Egyptian Knowledge of Mining

TA010851 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 1 Mar 83 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] Political and security circles take a very serious view of the mining incident in the south where five bedouin were killed. According to security investigators, there is no doubt whatsoever that the mines had been planted with the aim of striking at green patrol inspectors and the nature reserves authority.

Political and security circles familiar with the ins and outs in Egypt have expressed their opinion that such an action could not have possibly been perpetrated without the knowledge of Egyptian Government elements.

Moreover, if Egypt -- which is known as a police state and a country that keeps strict control on its border areas and the bedouin -- ignored this action, this would constitute another erosion in Israeli-Egyptian relations in addition to the suspension of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel. Jerusalem is awaiting clear-cut explanations from the Egyptian Government about this incident.

The security forces are conducting a very thorough investigation. It should be noted that this action is by way of a return to the security situation which existed before 1967. They wonder whether this in a one-time incident to test the waters for an upcoming process, and a landmark for the other Arab countries.

NORWEGIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER ARRIVES 28 FEB

TA282012 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister Svenn Stray arrived in Israel this afternoon on an official visit as the guest of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The Norwegian minister, a member of Norway's Conservative Party, arrived with his wife and a small party. Our correspondent Eytan Oren reports from Ben-Curion airport:

[Begin videotape] [Oren] The Norwegian foreign affairs minister arrived in Israel on an Arkia flight from Cyprus after visiting Egypt and Jordan. This is Minister Svenn Stray's fifth visit to Israel. He is known for his warm attitude toward Israel and his daughter even stayed on a kibbutz for a time as a volunteer. Stray was received at the airport by his Israeli counterpart, Mr Yitzhaq Shamir, who will be his host for 4 days, and it seems they do have topics to discuss, especially since this is the first visit by a European foreign minister to Israel since the Lebanon war.

The Foreign Ministry sees this visit as a renewal of the dialogue with the Norwegians that was interrupted when the fighting in Lebanon began. The Norwegians are part of the European Community and have adopted the Fes and Reagan plans. The Foreign Ministry sees this visit as an opportunity to explain to the Norwegians why Israel rejects the Fes plan and why it prefers the Camp David plan to that of President Reagan.

[Shamir -- in English] Mr Minister, we are aware of the deep feelings of friendship of the Norwegian people for the people and the State of Israel. We know your great interest in the issues of peace all over the world, including the Middle East, and I am convinced that your visit here will strengthen the ties of friendship between our peoples and the understanding, our mutual understanding, of the problems of our area and the international problems we are faced with.

[Stray -- in English] We have been looking forward to this visit to Israel, and personally, as a long-time friend of your country, I was also looking forward to see it again. [end videotape]

IDF INTELLIGENCE HEAD SAGI LEAVES POST

TA010858 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0855 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The head of the IDF Intelligence Branch, Major General Yehoshu'a Sagi, has ended his post. This has been reported by the IDF spokesman. Colonel Arye Ben-Tov, who is serving as chief intelligence officer, will deputize for him until a head of the Intelligence Branch is appointed. The inquiry commission's recommendations involving Brigadier General 'Amos Yaron will also be implemented, the IDF spokesman has reported.

Further Details on IDF Changes

TA010954 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0945 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Further to the IDF spokesman's announcement that we brought you a short time ago, our correspondent explains that Brigadier General 'Amos Yaron is continuing in his post as chief officer of the airborne and infantry troops, because this post is a general staff one. In accordance with the recommendations of the inquiry commission, Brig Gen Yaron's appointment as commander of a division is canceled.

ARENS APOLOGIZES TO WEINBERGER FOR ALLEGED REMARKS

TA281731 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens today telephoned U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and apologized [hitnatzel] for reports alleging that he had stated at the Cabinet session that Weinberger's positions are influenced by his economic activities and that he is worse than Secretary of State George Shultz. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal points out that Arens has maintained close relations with Secretary Weinberger for a long time. In the telephone conversation, Arens told Weinberger that he had not made the remarks attributed to him. Weinberger replied he did not conceive of his colleague saying such things. As for the claim itself that his activities are influenced by his past economic ties with Saudi Arabia, Weinberger said in an interview on the NBC network that this was an absolute nonsense and a McCarthy-type accusation. We need a strong Israel, Weinberger said, just as we need additional strong friends in that region.

ARENS OFFICIALLY ASSUMES DEFENSE MINISTRY

TA271217 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] At noon, Moshe Arens was received at the Defense Ministry with a full military ceremony, and was welcomed by the Defense Ministry director general and the chief of staff. Senior Defense Ministry sources told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that they anticipate a period of calm work. Our correspondent says that for the time being it seems there will be no reshuffle in the Defense Ministry's leadership. Minister Arens first wants to become thoroughly knowledgeable about the defense establishment.

Our correspondent notes that Arens supports the disengagement of forces in Lebanon as a first stage toward the removal of all foreign forces. The new defense minister wants to consolidate a long-term, far-reaching strategic plan for the military industry and the IDF.

In the afternoon, he will confer with the senior staff of his ministry and the military industry's leaders.

Meets Ministry, Industries Staff

TA271439 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens met this afternoon with the senior staff of the Defense Ministry and the directors of the defense industries. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the meeting was attended by some 60 people. The director general of the Defense Ministry, Aharon Bet-Halahmi, said in his welcome remarks that he hoped the new defense minister would give momentum to the defense industries. We are anxious, said the director of the Defense Ministry, and we expect you to succeed in maintaining the priority the national apparatus has always given to defense in general and to the Defense Ministry in particular. Arens said he feels at home in the Defense Ministry and pointed out that he is an administrator and believes in team work.

To Avoid Significant Changes

TA281232 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 83 p 1

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[Excerpt] The new defense minister, Joshe Arnes, will avoid any move likely to shock the defense establishment and, in this context, far-reaching organizational changes in the Ministry or new appointments that would not be acceptable to the defense establishment top ranks.

Knowledgeable sources have told our correspondent that the minister is hesitating over changes to the framework, such as changes in the national security unit, despite the fact that the minister is aware of the fact that this has already been hinted at by the media.

EYTAN COMMENTS ON BORDERS, TALKS WITH ARABS

TA271245 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Feb 83 p 6

[Report by Buqi Na'e]

[Excerpt] "We are a country like any other country in the world, and it is about time that the nations of the world stop arguing with us on our borders, let them stop wanting what we have today. These are our borders and we have no other alternative we can adopt." This was stated on Friday by Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan in a talk with about 500 students of the Merhavim Regional High School in the western Negev.

"Judaea and Samria are supremely important from the military point of view for the State of Israel, and if we give up these borders our security situation will be jeopardized in case of another war. Today, too, our geographical size is funny and we would not be able to survive in a situation where from Qalqilyah or Tulkarm it would be possible to use force against the State of Israel. When I say this, it is said that I make political declarations. When some else says this -- it is called a security declaration. Therefore, let those who say this keep to their own dunghill," the chief of staff said.

He refused to answer students' questions on the commission of inquiry investigating the Sabra and Shatila incidents, saying: "Personally, I have no wish to deal with this."

Eytan said he does not believe in any negotiations with the Arabs. "Throughout the ages the Jewish population here tried to reach by way of negotiations, but the Arabs have never agreed to this out of the hope they may still win on the military battlefield. It is only due to military victories that we have always been able to remain in Eretz Yisra'el."

Talking about the Palestinian problem, the chief of staff said that the Peace for Galilee war has reduced to nothing the Palestinians' hope that they will have a country. Today, after they have been swept beyond the sea into all Arab countries, they cannot talk about a Palestinian state and nobody heeds them on this issue.

LABOR'S SHIM'ON PERES ON LEBANON, JORDAN

TA281131 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1103 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Prees said this morning that it would be better to sign a less brilliant agreement with all of Lebanon's components than to sign a brilliant agreement with a few sections of Lebanon. As for the possibility of Jordan joining the negotiations, MK Peres said:

[Begin Peres recording -- in English] We support the position of our own government, that Israel should come to these negotiations with the Camp David agreement, with the realization of the autonomy plan. We feel that we should not put any prior conditions before the Jordanians. [end recording]

We support the government's position that Israel should join negotiations with Jordan on the basis of the Camp David agreements and the autonomy plan, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres told a Council of World Synagogues. In our opinion, he said, we should not present preconditions to the Jordanians.

Additional Report

TA281248 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Opposition leader Shim'on Peres says that neither Israel nor Jordan can compel the other to come to the negotiating table without preconditions. But in a speech to the World Council of Synagogues this morning in Jerusalem, Peres said that for peace one should be ready to make compromises. Ari Ben-Sender reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Sender] Opposition leader Peres told his listeners that Jordan and the PLO were the only two entities which could have any say in the future of the administered territories. But he ruled out that the PLO was a negotiating partner with Israel, because the organization still sought Israel's destruction. Therefore, he said, whoever says no to the PLO must say yes to Jordan. But Peres condemned the government's stand on Jordanian participation in peace talks without preconditions.

[Peres] It may so happen that King Husayn will announce himself in favor of negotiations. While we support the position of our own government that Israel should come to these negotiations with the Camp David agreement, with the realization of the autonomy plan, we feel that we should not put any prior conditions before the Jordanians. Let us come with our convictions and our plans. Let their Jordanians come with their own.

All negotiations are beginning in a state of disagreement. Would there be an agreement there wouldn't be any need to negotiate. And there is no chance to start negotiations unless the disagreements will not be translated into prior conditions.

[Ben-Sender] Peres said the incorporation of the territories into Israel would create a binational state, and that Israelis had no right to pass on to future generations the demographic problems of Lebanon and Ireland.

On Lebanon, the opposition leader calls for the total withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country. He said the Lebanese Army incorporating Major Sa'd Haddad should be present in a security zone north of Israel's border, but that a multinational force should guard the refugee camps. He also said that Israel should try and reach an agreement with all Lebanese factions, and not just the Christians or Phalange. This is Ari Ben-Sender reporting. [end recording]

GUSH 'EZYON ELECTRICITY SUPPLY DISRUPTED

TA281111 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1110 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Hebron, 28 Feb (ITIM) -- Unidentified people have caused serious damage to six electricity poles supplying electricity to the Jewish settlements in Gush 'Ezyon. These national grid poles pass through the Arab village of Battir in the Hebron District.

The ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria reports that two poles were sawed down, and another was totally burned down. As a result, the supply of electricity in the entire area has been disrupted.

The security forces have launched a thorough investigation.

There have been no reports on the detention of suspects.

WEST BANK VIOLENCE DISPERSED BY TEARGAS

TA272038 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2025 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Nabulus, 27 Feb (ITIM) -- An IDF soldier was injured today in the face by glass shards when the window of the bus he was riding in was shattered by rioting youths in the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus.

The ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria reports that during the day there were several violent disturbances in Nabulus by youths who hurled stones at Israeli cars. From time to time th security forces were compelled to disperse the riots by firing into the air and with teargas grenades. There were no casualties.

PEACE NOW URGES IDF STOP QIR'AT ARBA' VIOLENCE

TA010828 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Mar 83 p 1

[Report by Jerusalem correspondnet Hayim Basoq]

[Text] The Peace Now movement yesterday informed IDF authorities in the territories that the exacerbation of violence and the use of weapons by settlers would compel it to do something if the army authorities did not impose calm at once.

The announcement of Peace Now came in reaction to the firing incident on Saturday night where Qiryat Arba' inhabitants opened fire at Arab houses in Hebron, wounding a 4-year-old girl.

Peace Now yesterday stated that the use of violence in the territories was not some "Purim game," but the manner and method of behavior of settlers from Qiryat Arba' and Hebron. According to the movement, there is an obvious link between the incitement carried out by Rabbi Levinger and members of the Qiryat Arba' local council, and the attempt to attack worshippers in the mosque and the shots directed at Arab houses in Hebron in the last few days. Peace Now also believes that there is also a link between the attacks on Arabs in Hebron and the hurling of the grenade at Peace Now demonstrations in Jerusalem.

The Peace Now movement yesterday called on the security forces to investigate "energetically, this time" in order to arrest the perpetrators of all the attacks, and to continue to see to the security and well-being of all the inhabitants of the territories.

Peace Now will also make its position plain in a meeting scheduled to be held in the next few days between movement leaders and IDF authorities in the territories.

SECURITY SOURCE COMMENTS ON DISTURBANCES

TA281540 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Excerpt] A senior security element in Judaea and Samaria said today that the reason for the rioting in the area stems from the West Bank communists' disappointment with the results of the Algiers summit. They, so it was explained to us, are now flexing muscles so as to express their discontent, apparently also due to the recent incidents in Hebron. The senior security element today estimated that the detention of two Qiryat Arba' residents will now aid in calming the spirits in Judaea and Samaria.

PLO REPRESENTATIVES, ISRAELI LEFTISTS MEET

TA270909 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Feb 83 p 2

["Special" report from Britain by Yosi Melman]

[Text] London -- Secret contacts between PLO representatives and members of the Council for Israel-Palestine Peace were conducted in West Europe at the end of the week. This was reported by Jewish sources who organized the meetings. HA'OLAM Haze editor Uri Avneri arrived in London on Friday and left for Paris immediately, where he met with Mati Peled. It was impossible to get a reaction from Avneri, who returned to London together with Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi, one of 'Arafat's confidants who resigned from PNC last week after he was not allowed to deliver a speech before the council. Later Avneri confirmed that he had met, along with Mati Peled, with PLO members in Paris "with the aim of examining what happened in the PNC meeting in Algiers."

MINISTER MODA'I DISCUSSES SOVIET T-72'S

TA010636 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Cabinet Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i says Israel is the only country in the world that can evaluate the Soviet T-72 tank, and Israel faced the new tank in Lebanon. Speaking to a convention of the United Synagogues of America in Jerusalem last night, he said Israel is willing to share its information. The United States turned down an Israeli proposal for an agreement over the intelligence material, but Moda'i said the offer still stands.

[Begin Moda'i recording] The 130 generals and admirals that put out the huge ad in THE NEW YORK TIMES, I believe, that America must find a way to get from Israel the military information because it's vital for the free world we're not imagining things.

Now, I have to tell you that Israel has and will hand over the information gladly because we do feel that we are part and parcel of the Western free world and the information we know is vital for any future eventualities. [end recording]

NEW MINIATURE PILOTLESS PLANES PLANNED

TA251353 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Feb 83 p 4

[Report by Shim'on Rappaport]

[Text] Israel is presently developing a new generation miniature pilotless plane based on information gained from their operational performance during the war in Lebanon. One objective is to obtain far less dependence of that plane on ground stations due to security, reliability, and cost. These details were revealed at the 20th convention on avionics and aeronautics held yesterday at the Haifa Technion.

Professor Shmu'el Merhav from the Faculty of Aeronautics, who is a world-renowned figure on aircraft control, told MA'ARIV that in the Lebanon war, Israel had made a major breakthrough in operating these aircraft and it is now gaining international praise for it. "We have proved our concepts, and now a massive development of the pilotless planes should be expected for civilian uses as well," he said.

Development officials yesterday presented advanced navigation system and reliability control components at the convention. A group headed by Professor Merhav presented a number of components which may enable the installation of a navigation and independent control system in the pilotless plane without incurring great expense.

Relatively cheap microcomputer components which will replace very expensive parts in the navigation system were also shown. Another component displayed the possibility of improving the navigation of the pilotless plane by means of satellites. These components may be partly implemented in the next 2 years.

The head of the Lavi Project Administration, Brigadier General Menahem 'Eyni, disclosed that Israel has signed a technical agreement with the U.S. company "Calspan" which is one of the most advanced research companies in the world. Among other things, this company specializes in airborne simulators which enable comprehensive and realistic checks of the Lavi's defense system to detect unexpected problems.

PLANS FOR UPCOMING CARTER VISIT REPORTED

TA271219 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Former President Carter will visit Bethlehem and will be the guest of Mayor Ilyas Frayj. President Carter is supposed to arrive in Israel in the middle of next month. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that U.S. diplomat Sterner visited Nabulus yesterday and conferred with Hikmat al-Masri, one of the candidates for inclusion on the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Sterner was one of the U.S. delegation leaders for the Camp David talks. Our correspondent notes that this diplomat withdrew from the U.S. Foreign Service and is, therefore, not bound by the official ban on holding direct contacts with the PLO.

ALGERIA

APS CITES BENDJEDID ON GOOD-NEIGHBOR POLICY

LD281139 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, 28/2/83 (APS) -- President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN party secretary general, insisted, in the speech he delivered on the occasion of the commemoration of the anniversary of the Algerian workers National Union, on the fact that Algeria, in its relations with neighbour countries, is firmly convinced that the policy of positive good neighbouring is the sound and exemplary way to settle all questions and problems that may oppose brothers and neighbours.

Actually, it is not the first time the head of state evokes this question and its dimensions on the internal and regional plans.

He underlined on many occasions that the policy adopted by Algeria towards its neighbours has alway been and remains based on positive good neighbouring and the honest and fruitful cooperation with all the partners.

The good neighbouring as Algeria defines it means the noninterference in others' internal affairs as well as the respect of the will of neighbour countries' peoples and their choice as concerns development and the way of life, and in consideration of their social and economic conditions, far from any pressure of influence.

In this regard, the head of state recalled Algeria's efforts since many years, aimed at setting sound and clearly defined relations with its neighbours to avoid problems and conflicts that may come in the future. President Chadli asserted: We are convinced that we are one people, and that what links us is 90 percent over that divide us. [sentence as received] We also believe that all problems can find a solution since there is a sincere political will among the concerned parties.

PRESS COMMENTS ON HASSAN-BENDJEDID MEETING

NC281700 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, Feb 28 (AFP) -- The Algerian press today welcomed the weekend summit meeting between Morocco's King Hassan II and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The French-language official EL MOUDJAHID newspaper, commenting on the first meeting between Moroccan and Algerian heads of state since diplomatic relations were broken off in March, 1976, noted that Algeria "remains available for future contacts" with Morocco.

A Morocco official statement published yesterday said the two leaders discussed normalising ties after Morocco ended diplomatic links over Algerian support for the Polisario front in the Western Sahara, claimed by Morocco.

King Hassan and President Chadli discussed "all questions of interest to both countries," including the Western Sahara conflict, the statement said.

In Tunis, meanwhile, Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba hailed the meeting and wished "with all his heart" that it be followed by further talks.

In another development, Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta arrived in Riyadh today for talks with King Fahd with a message from King Hassan, Radio Riyadh reported.

The Saudi press, which commented favorably on the weekend talks, praised Saudi Arabia's role in organising the meeting, including a November visit to Algeria and Morocco by the Saudi Monarch.

HUNGARIAN DELEGATION DEPARTS; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

LD242238 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] The protocol of an agreement between the FLN and the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] was signed today at the conclusion of the visit to Algeria by Ferenc Havasi, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, who held a series of meetings with the president of the People's National Council and with a number of FLN and government officials.

A joint FLN-MSZMP communique was published today. It said in particular that the talks between the delegations, which were held in an amicable and frank atmosphere, dealt with political and ideological issues, with the development of political, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries, and with the world situation. The communique points out that the Algerian side informed its Hungarian counterpart of the developments achieved by the FLN party in consolidating its organizational and political structures and in its internal and external activities. It also informed the Hungarian side of the progress achieved in the field of national development and of the tasks that require the mobilization of all energies for the preparation of the fifth FLN congress and of the national development plan. On its part, the Hungarian side informed the Algerian side of developments in the activities of the MSZMP and of the work of its 12th congress held in 1980. Analyzing the current world situation, the two sides noted that it is characterized by a dangerous deterioration and a return of tension. They noted the danger from imperialist maneuvers and from the policy of its agents in all its forms, increase in hotbeds of crisis, cases of interference in the internal affairs of states, attempts to undermine the stability of progressive regimes, and the refusal to recognize peoples' rights to self-determination and independence. The arms race is posing threats to peace, security, and to the future of human civilization.

Examining the dangerous situation in the Middle East, the two sides strongly condemned the aggressive and expansionist policy pursued by the Zionists against the Palestinian and other Arab peoples, and stressed that any just, lasting, and comprehensive resolution of the Palestinian issue must be based on the recognition of the inalienable and firm national rights of the Palestinian people and on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the PLO. The two sides reaffirmed their solidarity with all the struggling peoples, especially in Africa and in Latin America, and affirmed their support for the OAU and UN (?resolutions), and for the nonaligned countries' recommendations which recognize the Saharan people's right to self-determination and independence. The two sides believe that the implementation of the regional and international resolutions necessarily require the opening of direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario front.

The two sides expressed their appreciation of the positive role of the Nonaligned Movement as a dynamic factor in international relations. They also expressed their conviction that the forthcoming nonaligned summit will enable the movement to bolster its vitality, harmony, solidarity, and energy in carrying out its historic task, for national independence, cooperation, and understanding among peoples. The Hungarian delegation left Algiers this afternoon. It was seen off by the chairman of the FLN External Relations Committee.

LIBYA

COOPERATION TALKS WITH IRAN BEGIN IN TRIPOLI

LD271135 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Feb (JANA) -- Libyan-Iranian talks on strengthening bilateral relations in various fields began last night.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for economy and light industries and a number of experts and technicians from various secretaries took part in these talks. Mostafa Hashemi, minister of light industry, and his accompanying delegation took part in the talks on the Iranian side.

JANA CRITICIZES U.S. OFFICIAL'S VISIT TO CHAD

LD262156 Tripoli JANA in English 1643 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Ndjamena, Jumada 14, Feb 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- Following the end of a visit to Ndjamena yesterday, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for central and West African affairs James Bishop said the Reagan administration has agreed to give 10 million dollars in financial aid to Hissein Habre this year.

Bishop's visit to Chad is part of the U.S. plan to escalate tension in the region in conjunction with Hissein Habre.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. 'TERRORIST' SCHEMES IN REGION

LD270140 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. terrorist acts come one after the other against the Arab nation. Each new day reveals how the United States wants to place the entire Arab homeland under U.S.-Zionist hegemony and turn it into an exclusive U.S. sphere of influence. Even if U.S. terror against the Arab nation began as long ago as World War II, or even longer, this terrorism had begun to openly increase and intensify during the middle seventies. It reminds us of the fifties -- the days of John Foster Dulles, the former U.S. secretary of state, the architect of the brinkmanship doctrine, and the advocate of linking the Arab area to the bandwagon of U.S. imperialism by means of a series of military alliances and agreements.

What happened in the way of provocation and muscle-flexing in the Gulf of Sidra last week was the latest episode of U.S. terrorism. There is no doubt that more will follow. All of what we are mentioning is actually nothing more than one type of U.S. terror. U.S. terror assumes various forms, types, and colors. Among the other forms of U.S. terror against the Arab nation are the U.S. schemes presented in the name of bringing peace to the Middle East. One cannot in any way differentiate between flagrant U.S. military terrorism and the political schemes. These schemes are the other face of the blatant U.S. military operations of terror. Indeed, each of these complements the other.

The Arab masses have no course in resisting and foiling these U.S. schemes other than resorting to all the possible means of struggle. The leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, stressed in his speech before the pan-Arab conference of Arab opposition forces on 1 February 1983 the struggle that the Arab masses can adopt to resist U.S. conspiracies in the Arab homeland and force the Arab regimes to abandon their march along the road of treason and surrender.

Such methods include strikes, sit-ins, demonstrations, and civil disobedience. The leader of the revolution explained the need to launch strikes against U.S. vessels and planes. The Arab masses have no alternative if they want to foil the U.S. conspiracies -- except the method of strikes and sit-ins. This might be a first step toward mobilizing all the masses and closing ranks prior to developing the struggle so that it reaches the stage of popular revolution that sweeps away all the U.S., Zionist, and reactionary conspiracies from the area.

U.S. PROVOCATIONS, ECONOMIC 'BLOCKADE' CONTINUING

NC270741 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] The U.S. Administration is continuing to launch its declared war against the Libyan Arab people -- a war represented by provocations, pressures, and the imposition of an economic blockade. A spokesman for the U.S. Boeing company has stated that the U.S. Government has refused to permit the company to conclude a deal for the sale of a number of Boeing passenger planes to the Jamahiriyah. The spokesman pointed out that the U.S. Commerce Department ordered the company this week not to sell these planes.

Thus, the Reagan administration is continuing with its anti-Libyan moves because of the Libyan Arab people's firm stand of rejecting all the capitulationist schemes and U.S. hegemony. For this reason, the Reagan administration believes that the Jamahiriyah constitutes the only obstacle confronting the U.S. hegemonic designs.

JABIR RECEIVES PFLP-GC'S AHMAD JIBRIL 25 FEB

LD251009 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Feb (JANA) -- Commander in chief of the armed forces, Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, last night received Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Jibril Leaves Tripoli

LD262201 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Feb (JANA) -- The secretary General of the PFLP-GC, Ahmad Jibril, and his delegation left Tripoli this evening after a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

SUDAN

MIRGHANI CONFERS WITH U.S.'S ATHERTON, KONTOS

JN271327 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Feb (SUNA) -- Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani today received U.S. Ambassadors in Cairo and Khartoum Alfred Atherton and William Kontos. Atherton said after the meeting that the discussions touched on the Sudanese-Egyptian relations and the U.S. role, as a friendly state, in developing and boosting these relations and in supporting integration between the two countries.

Asked by SUNA about President Reagan's speech on 22 February, particulary regarding the U.S. efforts to guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, Atherton said that Reagan's speech does not signify a new U.S. policy toward the Palestinian people. The speech, Atherton added, is a reaffirmation of the U.S. position whose ultimate aim is to find a just and lasting peace in the region and pursue even-handedness with regard to the Palestinian people's demands.

Mirghani Comments on Meeting

JN271522 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Feb (SUNA) -- Following his meeting this morning with the U.S. ambassadors in Khartoum and Cairo, Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani told SUNA that the meeting had dealt with some political issues, foremost being the Middle East problem. He added: We explained our views and made it clear that the Arab world, as demonstrated at the Fes summit, is eager to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem. The foreign minister further explained that the entire world is now aware of Israel's intentions to reject a peaceful solution and keep both peace and land. He said that this is absolutely unacceptable. The foreign minister added that the discussions during the meeting stressed the need to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue as soon as possible.

The foreign minister said that the nonaligned summit conference is extremely important at this serious juncture. It is also important that the Nonaligned Movement not deviate from its policy of nonalignment; otherwise its efficacious role, solidarity, and longstanding objective will be rendered senseless.

Muhammad Mirghani said that he will stress, during the nonaligned summit, the need to uphold the principles and bases of nonalignment to the letter, irrespective of the persuasions of some member-states. In so doing, we will preserve the unity and strength of this group and consequently its political, developmental, and economic strength on the world level.

The foreign minister stated that he will lead Sudan's delegation to the nonaligned foreign ministers' meeting to prepare for the summit conference, scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 7 March and attended by President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri.

AT-TAYYIB CONFERS WITH UGANDAN VICE PRESIDENT

JN281750 Khartoun SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Feb (SUNA) -- First vice president Staff Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib received Paulo Muwanga, Ugandan vice president, defense minister, and head of his country's delegation to the Fourth SSU Congress, this morning. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and means of promoting them.

Muwanga praised the organization of and the efforts to convene the Fourth National Congress. He said that he considers the political grouping experience in Sudan a great one that will benefit his political party in Uganda. In his capacity as defense minister, the head of the Ugandan delegation expressed his thanks to Sudan for training 600 Ugandan officers at the military college. He called for more opportunities to facilitate and train Ugandans in the Sudanese Armed Forces.

The vice president explained that he conveyed to the president leader what the Ugandan defense minister had requested and that the president had agreed to the requests. He said that the security of Uganda is the strategic depth of Sudan's security.

TUNISIA

ES-SEBSI BRIEFED ON BENDJEDID-HASSAN MEETING

LD281741 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Ahmed Ben Suda, counsellor to King Hassan II and special envoy to President Habib Bourguiba, arrived in Tunis at midday today.

He stated that he will be conveying the greetings of King Hassan II to President Habib Bourguiba and that he will be acquainting his excellency with the results of the meeting between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and the Moroccan monarch which was held last Saturday. He pointed out that the great combatant is the first person and the one who most deserves to be acquainted with what took place during this meeting, a meeting which is considered a new brick and step along the path of (?building) the Arab Maghreb. He said that without a doubt, President Habib Bourguiba will be happy with our results which are a step toward building the structure which his excellency has planned for and fought for since he was a student in Paris.

Ahmed Ben Suda concluded his statement [words indistinct] that the ties which link Tunisia and Morocco demand that information be exchanged and coordinated in all spheres. There is a special deep bond between His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba and His Majesty King Hassan II. Both drink from the spring of truth, objectivity, and reality, and are confident that the target will be achieved. [sentence indistinct]

His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba has followed the meeting held last Saturday between His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid with satisfaction. This was stated by Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi this morning. He added that His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba salutes this new initiative in relations among the brethren and sees it as another incentive to continue joint work to strengthen the bonds of fraternity, cooperation, and integration among the countries of the great Maghreb in the folds of tranquillity and harmony and that Tunisia, which is closely following the development of relations between the countries of the region, sincerely hopes that these steps will continue diligently along the path of building the great Maghreb to serve the principles for which its peoples fought, to perpetuate the spirit of solidarity among them and to achieve a better tomorrow for their sons and the sons of the Arab nation. The great Arab edifice is considered a step on the path of unifying its word and of marshalling its efforts for the victory of the just causes and to realize the all-embracing Arab rebirth.

PRESS PRAISES ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN SUMMIT

LD281545 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1355 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Tunis, 28 Feb (TAP) -- Tunisian papers this morning have commented on the recent meeting held on the Algerian-Moroccan frontiers between President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II.

The French language L'ACTION, organ of the Tunisian Destour Socialist Party, writes about the meeting between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Moroccan King Hassan II and notes that this historic meeting has aroused deep satisfaction both in the Maghreb and throughout the world. It points out that this is not the first time in which Maghreb countries have proven their profound ability to find suitable solutions to their problems without resorting to foreign help. L'ACTION expresses its optimism about the prospects for the Algerian-Moroccan meeting.

On the same subject, LA PRESSE stresses that the meeting between the Algerian president and the Moroccan king may not have important results in the immediate future, but it is of the utmost importance to Algeria and Morocco, as well as to the rest of the Maghreb and to Arab countries in general.

After noting that disputes among sister countries could be (?solved), the paper says that different viewpoints could be a factor of enrichment if they do not exceed rational limits and if dialogue and negotiations are used.

LA PRESSE stresses Tunisia's efforts to bring about rapprochment among the peoples and to build a greater Arab Maghreb.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO CONFIRMS SUPPORT FOR NEGOTIATIONS

LD010003 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Salim Mohamed Ould Salek, member of the Political Bureau of the Polisario and official in charge of foreign relations, made a statement in Algiers tonight in which he said that the Saharan Government and the Polisario are receptive to and support every initiative which seeks to revive direct negotiations between the SDAR and Morocco to bring about a peaceful settlement of the crisis. Ould Salek praised Algeria's attitude toward the Saharan issue. He said: We have confidence in Algeria with whom we are linked by militant relations of solidarity and with whom we have constant consultations.

After recalling Algeria's readiness to mediate, which led on 5 August 1979 to the peace agreement between the SDAR and Mauritania, the officer in charge of foreign relations of the Polisario renewed adherence to the principle of withdrawal of Moroccan forces and respect for the sovereignty and sanctity of SDAR territory.

AFP: Polisario Welcomes Talks

NC281825 Paris AFP in English 1818 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, Feb 28 (AFP) -- The Polisario front today welcomed last Saturday's summit meeting between King Hassan II of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Polisario foreign affairs spokesman Mohamed Ould Salek said that his movement would support any initiative "which would lead to negotiations between ourselves and Morocco to reach a peaceful and lasting solution" to the Western Sahara conflict.

The Algerian-backed Polisario has proclaimed the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SDAR) in the former Spanish colony where it is fighting Morocco for control.

But Mr Ould Salek added that peace would be conditional upon "the withdrawal of the last Moroccan soldier from Sahrawi territory" and also depended on Morocco respecting the SDAR's "sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The Polisario official said he was aware that Morocco and Algeria, which broke off diplomatic relations over the Western Sahara question in March 1976, had continued their contacts since 1978. He recalled that the SDAR favoured direct talks with Morocco on the conflict as being "the best way towards peace in the region."

On Algerian military and diplomatic support for Polisario, Mr Ould Salek stressed the Sahrawis' "confidence in Algeria, which backs them consistently, seriously, and with exemplary serenity," and added that the Algerian aid was constantly increasing.

SALEM OULD SALEK HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

LD271209 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, 27 Feb (APS) -- Salem Ould Salek, member of the Political Bureau of the Polisario and responsible for foreign relations, on Saturday afternoon held a press conference on the seventh anniversary of the founding of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

On this occasion, Ould Salek mentioned that the Saharan people are more determined than ever to defend the integrity of their territory and that any solution to the Western Sahara problem must necessarily include their regaining of all their territory and the holding of negotiations between the SDAR and Morocco.

After assessing the political, economic, and military situation in this country, Ould Salek explained that despite the attempts at mass annihilation, of which the Saharan people were the victims, the latter are determined [words indistinct] the struggle, recalling on this occasion the triumphs scored by his people. He explained that "the wall, which some journalists -- supporters of Rabat -- wanted to show as a defeat for the Saharans, today has become a burden on the shoulders of Morocco which bears its consequences."

He pointed out that the liberation army of the Saharan people is still carrying out attacks against this wall behind which hides an army which is encountering more and more difficulties despite the backing of foreign powers which comes in various forms.

Ould Salek assessed the political situation after 7 years of struggle. He explained that the liberation army of the Saharan people waged historic battles against occupation forces. He recalled that the struggle is witnessing new dimensions since the intervention and the establishment of the American military bases in Morocco.

Ould Salek explained that, in any event, supplying Morocco with the most modern weapons of destruction, especially ground-to-ground missiles by the United States and other countries, and the presence of Americans technicians in Morocco under various forms, prove the failure of the Moroccan Army facing a people determined to liberate all their "homeland or be martyred.' Ould Salek also explained that "peace could be established only after the withdrawal of the last Moroccan soldier from El Aiun, Semara, and Bu Craa."

The Saharan official responsible for foreign relations also reviewed the diplomatic position. He said that it was "working in our favor on a broad front."

The Saharan official brought back to mind the historic decision of the SDAR not to attend the recent meeting of the Organization of African Unity, which, he said, enabled us to expose the plots hatched against the OAU. He pointed out that our participation in the forthcoming session of the OAU, to be held in Addis Ababa, will take place without any preconditions, and that the SDAR will take its seat in the OAU. Moreover, the Saharan delegation will represent the SDAR at the forthcoming summit conference of the nonaligned states to be held in New Delhi. Regarding the French posture towards the Western Sahara since the Socialist government came to power in France, Ould Salek pointed out that this stance still supports Morocco. In this respect, he mentioned the French sale of weapons to Morocco.

Ould Salek concluded his press conference by saying, with regard to our relations with the Spanish Socialist Party, as long as this party has not openly condemned the Madrid agreements which brought about the occupation of our land by Moroccan soldiers, "we consider that no change has occurred in Spanish policy regarding the Saharan issue."

ETHIOPIA

ERITREAN FRONT CLAIMS NINE ETHIOPIANS KILLED

EA281619 [Clandestine] Voice of Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] An enemy force advancing from (Ghinda) to (Mai Wiyi) was attacked by regular local forces of the EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] and forced to retreat. During the fighting between 0900 and 1200 the day before yesterday with this enemy force which was advancing to harass people, 9 of its soldiers were killed and 14 were wonded.

On the same day another enemy force advancing from (Tera Imni) to [name indistinct] suffered three dead, six wounded and [word indistinct] and was forced to retreat. Among the dead was Lieutenant Worku Tedla, commander of the enemy camp in (Tera Imni).

In another development, four enemy tanks were destroyed on February in the suburbs of (Tekhombia) when they went over land mines planted by the engineering division of the EPLF.

KENYA

PLO ENVOY ON KENYAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS 28 FEB

JN281816 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1745 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Nairobi, 28 Feb (SUNA) -- 'Afif Saffi, envoy of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, today talked with the Kenyan authorities on the latest developments in the Middle East and on the Palestine National Council resolutions. The Palestinian envoy said that that the Kenyan authorities have assured him that Kenya will not restore its diplomatic relations with Israel.

SOMALIA

RADIO REPORTS OPENING OF DFSS CONGRESS

EA262134 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] The inaugural congress of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, opened today. The congress will be in session 26 February through 1 March. This is the first congress since the unification of the Somali Salvation Front, SSF, the Somali Democratic Liberation Front, SDLF, and the Somali Workers Party, SWP. The three organizations merged into the new organization of the DFSS on 5 October 1981. They agreed to topple the current dictatorial regime of Siad Barre through armed and political struggle and to restore peace, democracy, and justice in Somalia and to spearhead economic and social progress.

The congress will hear the report of DFSS Chairman Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad and the congress will also deliberate on the various aspects of the DFSS struggle, the current true situation in Somalia, and other international issues.

The DFSS congress is expected to draw up future political and strategic policies of the DFSS.

TANZANIA

NEW CABINET, PRIME MINISTER SWORN IN 25 FEB

EA251555 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam -- President Nyerere today swore in the new cabinet which was announced in the major government changes on Wednesday this week. At a brief ceremony held at State House today, 16 ministers together with two deputy ministers were sworn in, including the new prime minister, Ndugu Edward Sokoine.

In the changes announced in the middle of this week, the former prime minister, Ndugu Cleopa Msuya, was moved to the Ministry of Finance in place of Ndugu Amir Jamal, who is now minister without portfolio.

NEW PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC STEPS

EA282000 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1900 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] The newly appointed prime minister, Ndugu Edward Sokoine, has announced eight major steps to be taken by the government in revamping the economy. Speaking at a party held in Dodoma last night to welcome him and bid farewell to the former prime minister, Ndugu Cleopa Msuya, Ndugu Sokoine said the new CCM [revolutionary party] government would try all in its power to solve the present economic problems and wipe out racketeering.

In a speech which he read before the CCM secretary general, Ndugu Rashid Kawawa, Ndugu Sokoine said the government would enact moves that would ensure that the party's directive that every able-bodied person must work was implemented to the letter. Ndugu Sokoine said the country's major economic problems were foreign exchange, food, fuel, raw materials for industries, and pilfering on the part of certain people who were bent on living on other people's sweat.

He said the nation was also facing a propaganda onslaught from internal and external enemies of its policy of socialism and self-reliance, coupled with wavering on the part of some Tanzanians due to the present and future outlook. He said problems which were presently afflicting Zanzania were not unique to the country but were worldwide, adding that it was time Tanzanians stopped panicking and worked hard to steer the nation out of its economic problems.

28 APPEAR IN COURT ON TREASON CHARGE 25 FEB

AB260654 Paris AFP in English 0347 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam, Feb. 26 (AFP) -- Twenty-eight Tanzanians alleged to have conspired to overthrow President Julius Nyerere's government early last month were brought before a heavily-guarded court here on Friday charged with treason. But details of the charges were not disclosed when police senior superintendent Tatu Omar, read out the names of the accused to chief resident magistrate, Joseph Masanche.

The alleged plotters, 20 Army men and eight civilians, were remanded in custody. They are to appear in court again on March 11. One of the accused, Christopher Ngaiza, 52, was President Nyerere's advisor on the Kagera River Basin Development Commission (set up in 1978 by Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda).

The military suspects included Lieutenant-Colonels Martin Peter Msami, 36, Martin Ngalomba, 40, and Protas Bachumila Muchwampaka, 40; the others included eight captains and seven lieutenants.

The civilians included university lecturer in Swahili Boniface Bugingo, 37, Air Tanzania pilot Hatty Machee alias Hatibu Ghanji Machee, 37, the Tanzania Shoe Company's sales and marketing manager Robert Bayona, 29, motor vehicle mechanic Ramadhani Shabani Otto, 40, businessmen George Banyikwa, 38, and Mutakubwa Lugangila, 40 and industrialist Jayantilal Pragji Rajani, 53. Mr Rajant, owner of a cooking oil factory in the capital, was the only person represented by a lawyer.

This is Tanzania's third treason case since independence 22 years ago.

ZANZIBAR RESHUFFLE ANNOUNCED 21 FEBRUARY

EA231015 Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili 1600 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Zanzibar: Ndugu Aboud Jumbe, chairman of the Revolutionary Council, president of Zanzibar, today reshuffled the Council of Ministers of the Zanzibar Government and deputy and assistant ministers and also appointed 29 members of the Revolutionary Council. In the changes, the president of Zanzibar appointed Ndugu Ramadhani Haji Faki as chief minister in the office of the chairman of the Revolutionary Council; Ndugu Hafidh Sileiman as minister of state in the office of the president; Ndugu Mohamed Faki as minister of state for planning; Ndugu Mohamed (Ramiya) as minister of finance.

Ndugu Jumbe also appointed Ndugu Hassan Nassor Moyo as minister of agriculture and livestock; Ndugu (Amos C.) Bilal as minister of industry; Ndugu Simai Mmanga Hamisi, as minister of mineral resources and tourism; Ndugu Mohamed Abdallah Khamis as minister of trade; and Ndugu Hamadi Khamis Hamadi as minister of water, energy, and mines.

Others appointed are Ndugu Sueliman Seif Hamadi, who becomes minister for communications and transport; Ndugu Aboud Twalib aboud as minister for land, works, and housing; Ndugu (Mansur) Ali Salim as minister for health; Ndugu Omar Hamad Hassan as minister for education; Ndugu Ramadhani Abdallah Shabani as minister for labor, service, and social welfare; and Ndugu Issa Mohammed Suleiman as minister for information, broadcasting and television culture, and sports.

Chairman of the Revolutionary Council Ndugu Aboud Jumbe has also appointed Khamis Ramadhani as deputy chief minister in the office of the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Ndugu Waziri Mbwana Ali, who will be responsible for authority in the regions; Ndugu Mohamed Zuberi Khamis as deputy minister of communications and transport; Ndugu (Usi) Khamisi as deputy minister of agriculture; and Ndugu Edington H. Kisasi as deputy minister of water, energy, and mines.

Others appointed are Ndugu Abdallah Rashid Abdallah as deputy minister of land, works, and housing; Ndugu Ali Mohamed Shoka as deputy minister of health; Ndugu Mwinyiewete Aidarus as deputy minister of education; Ndugu (Mpaja) Khamis Juma as deputy minister of labor service and social welfare; Ndugu Mohamed Vwai as deputy minister for information, broadcasting, and television; and Ndugu Ali Mwinyi Haji as deputy minister for culture and sports.

He has appointed 16 assistant ministers in the ministries of the Zanzibar Government. Those appointed are Ndugu (Ishau) Abdallah Khamis as assistant minister in the office of the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and president of Zanzibar [words indistinct]; Ndugu (Jaffar) Mfaume Ali as assistant chief minister in the office of the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and secretary general of the Revolutionary Council; Ndugu Ramadhani (H. Simbika) as assistant minister of state in the office of the president; Ndugu Juma (Duni) Haji as assistant minister of state for planning and executive secretary for economic planning; Ndugu Abdallah S. Mugheri as assistant minister for finance; and Ndugu Masoud Mohamed Hemed as assistant minister for agriculture and livestock.

Other assistant ministers appointed are Ndugu Ali Mansur Vwai as assistant minister of industries; Ndugu Jabir (Idi) Mdahoma as assistant minister of natural resources and tourism; Ndugu Jafar Khamis Burhan as assistant minister of trade; Ndugu (Kamal) Haji Hassan as assistant minister for water, energy, and mines; and Ndugu Aballah Hamadi Khamisi as assistant minister for communications and transport.

The chairman of the Revolutionary Council has also appointed Ndugu Mohamed Salim Suleiman as assistant minister for land, works, and housing; Ndugu Mahmud Idi Rashid as assistant minister for education; Ndugu (Rabii) Hamdan as assistant minister for labor services and social welfare, and Ndugu Mohamed Juma Jongo as assistant minister for information, broadcasting, television, culture, and sports.

President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council Ndugu Aboud Jumbe has also appointed the following as members of the Revolutionary Council: Abdallah Rashid Abdallah, Aboud Twalib Aboud; Abdallah Said Natepe, Ali Mohamed Shoka Edington S. Kisasi, Amos (C) Bilal Hassan Nassor Moyo, Mohamed Vwai Mahmud Hafidh Sueliman [last name indistinct], Hamadi Khamis Hamadi, Himidi Usi (Mwisha); Isa Mohamed Sueliman, Khamis Hemed [last name indistinct]; Khamis Darwesh; Mansur Ali Swaleh, Mohamed Faki Mohamed, Mohamed (Ramiya) (Kiwawa); Mohamed Abdallah Khamis, Msellem Abdulrahman Nassor, Mpaji Khamis Juma, Omari Hamadi Hassan, Ramadhani Haji Faki, Ramadhan Abdallah Shaaban, Seif Bakari Omar, Said [middle and last names indistinct] Abdulrahman Mmanga Khamis, (Jumaan Athman Hamadi) Jumaan Seif Hamadi and Waziri Mbwana Ali.

CAR

KOLINGBA RELEASES OPPOSITION LEADERS' WIVES

AB281628 Paris AFP in French 1453 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Bangui, 28 Feb (AFP) -- CAR head of state General Andre Kolingba has decided to release Mrs Mbaikoua, Mrs Fayanga, and Mrs Patasse, the wives of opposition leaders, Radio Bangui announced on Monday.

Their release was decided on for "humanitarian" reasons following President Kolingba's visit to Camp Kausai where the three ladies have been detained for almost 1 year.

On 3 March 1982, Brigadier General Alphonse Mbaikoua, then minister of state for justice, and Brigadier General Francois Bozize (former minister of information and culture) failed in their attempt to organize a coup d'etat.

Ange Patasse, the chairman of the Central African People's Liberation Movement (MLPC), who was implicated in the affair, took refuge in the French Embassy for 3 weeks before leaving for Lome where the Togolese authorities granted him political asylum. General Mbaikoua and General Bozize are currently living abroad. Mrs Charlotte Fayanga is a member of the MLPC.

CHAD

BARDAI RADIO ON FIGHTING IN GOUROU AREA

AB251115 Bardai Chadian National Radio (anti-Habre) in French 1800 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Summary] As we previously announced, some elements of the National Liberation Army were attacked on 20 February by the forces of national annihilation. The attackers numbered 1,500. More than 100 men were killed, 36 were wounded, and 220 were taken prisoner in the ranks of the enemy. A large quantity of ammunition as well as an important quantity of various arms of Belgian, French, Egyptian, and American make were seized. Many other weapons supplied by Sudan and Zaire and 25 vehicles carrying food and drugs were also seized from the enemy.

"These were the serious consequences of the violent battles between Hissein Habre's national annihilation forces and elements of the National Liberation Army. Six men were killed and 22 others were wounded on the side of the National Liberation Army. The enemy losses announced are only provisional because the combatants of the national annihilation forces, who were put to flight and whose ages ranged from 11 to 25 years, melted away into the bush and are being pursued. Since the area is hostile and austere, many of them will surely die from thirst and weariness."

"Was this the first attack by the national annihilation forces on the locality of Gourou? No! This was the second time this locality, under the control of elements of the National Liberation Army, has been the scene of fierce fighting." On 25 December last year, a detachment of the national annihilation forces tried to seize the place but abandoned on the field more than 120 dead soldiers and 15 prisoners. "The enemy attacked Gourou from three sides and nearly surrounded it." Because of Gourou's geographical situation, however, it would be impossible even for the best military strategists to capture it. "Hissein Habre had once again sent his soldiers to commit suicide. It is obvious that the crushing military defeat inflicted on the forces of reaction was a victory not only for Chad but also for all of militant Africa."

Slogans such as "watch out, the FAN is on the way!" were written on the vehicles of the forces of reaction in order to boost the morale of the soldiers. "But the latter did not have enough determination to oppose the least resistance by the brave soldiers of the National Liberation Army."

COMMUNIQUE REPORTS CHAD INSURGENTS' SUCCESSES

LD261816 Tripoli JANA in English 1620 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Bardai, Jumada 14, Feb 26 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The National Liberation Army of Goukouni Oueddei's Chadian National Unity Government inflicted heavy casualties and material damage on Hissein Habre's forces.

In a communique broadcast in Bardai, the Chadian National Unity Government said the National Liberation Army delivered crushing blows to Habre's forces during a counter-attack in the northeastern Gourou region in Chad on Feb 20.

The communique said 120 of Habre's forces were killed, 40 were injured and another 220 captured. Moreover, 25 heavy arms pieces including 14.5 and 23mm anti-aircraft guns and 107 mm artillery, were captured, together with large quantities of light arms and ammunition. 20 pieces of heavy weapons were also destroyed.

The communique said that among the weapons captured during the counter-attack were Egyptian "Hakim" arms, Zairean weapons, arms bearing the markings of the Sudanese Armed Forces and U.S. and Israeli weapons.

The communique said the National Liberation Army's losses during the attack were six dead.

In a statement, the National Liberation Army's Chief of Staff General Nagi Djougou said remnants of Habre's forces fled the scene of the battle and that the commander of Habre's remnants Hamed Hethuma, who was also able to escape, was seriously injured. His deputy was, however, killed during the counter-attacks.

RADIO COMMENTARY SAYS ZAIRIAN TROOPS IN COUNTRY

AB282125 Bardai Chadian National Radio (anti-Habre) in French 1810 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] One Mr (Orogou) reportedly (?sent) by Hissein Habre held talks in Kinshasa with the Israeli military delegation led by former Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. After several rounds of talks with the Israeli official and a Zairian officer, Colonel [name indistinct], well-known in Chad, he succeeded in obtaining the promise that a quantity of military equipment seized from the Palestinians in Lebanon would be transferred to Ndjamena via Zaire.

Meanwhile, a Zairian unit based in Kisangani, in the Haut Zaire, is making preparations to go to Chad to reinforce the Zairian contingent already there in charge of fascist Habre's security. The Zairian task force will be deployed in the regions of [names indistinct]. Military equipment is already being airlifted from Kinshasa to Ndjamena.

Let us briefly examine the combat readiness of those Zairian soldiers. What did they do against the handful of Katanga gendarmes who invaded their country in 1978? They laid down their arms and took to their heels. As can be seen, they refused to die or at least they did not want to (?serve) the regime of their president, Mobutu.

Will they now accept to sacrifice their lives for Hissein Habre, whom they do not know at all or whom they hardly know? We do not believe it in the least. The Zairian Army is an army for parades. Furthermore, the Chadian desert is nothing compared with the Zairian forest. What explanations will Mobutu give to the parents of those soldiers who are certain to be massacred in Chad? For whom and for what reasons are they (?sent) there? The question is a major one. The national annihilation forces [Hissein Habre's forces] who know the field better did not succeed in winning a victory at Gouro. And the so-called Zairian soldiers who display no determination, no motivation, and no reason to fight that Chadian war will not do any better. This is why, in a statement to the international press, President Goukouni Oueddei affirmed that the military defeat of the national annihilation forces at Gouro is a political failure of a comprehensive scheme designed by the United States along with their Sudanese and Egyptian allies.

You members of the National Liberation Army [Goukouni's troops]; the Chadian people trust you! Through your courage, your self-denial, and your determination, you will drive away Hissein Habre, the renegade, from Ndjamena to restore order and justice. As a modern thinker said, U.S. imperialism is a paper tiger. It will be driven out of Chad as it was out of Vietnam, Iran, and Nicaragua. The people will overcome.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU PROMULGATES LAW ON 1983 STATE BUDGET

AB280830 Paris AFP in French 1215 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 26 Feb (AFP) -- President Mobutu on Friday promulgated the financial law for the year 1983. State revenue is estimated at 6.801 billion zaires (1 zaire is equivalent to 1.19 fr) while expenditure is fixed at 7.832 billion zaires. The law authorizes the minister of finance and budget to contract loans which should not exceed 2.400 billion zaires to make up the deficit.

Fiscal Measures for 1983

AB280835 Paris AFP in French 1221 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 26 Feb (AFP) -- The Zairian Government, meeting on Friday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo, decided to allocate 70 million zaires (1 zaire is equivalent to 1.19 fr) to the program for roads in the agricultural region for the year 1983. Based on the report of Minister of Portfolio Pay Syakasighe, "in order not to jeopardize the policy of strictness that it intends to pursue in the management of the state property," the council decided to suspend pay increases and social advantages envisaged for 1983 by the public corporations and to cancel all new jobs created beyond the organic staff needed and without the approval of the minister in charge. The Council of Ministers also accepted the principle of levying taxes on radios and televisions. According to Kande Dzambulate, minister of information and the government's spokesman, the Zaire Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation, which is operated on state funds, should be able to receive fees for its services.

GUINEAN PRESIDENT LEAVES AFTER 4-DAY VISIT

AB261227 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Excerpt] President Ahmed Sekou Toure left Kinshasa today at the end of a 4-day friendly and working visit to Zaire. He was seen off at the Njili International Airport by Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic.

GHANA

BAWKU UNDER CURFEW AFTER INTERTRIBAL CLASH

AB281318 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] A dusk to dawn curfew has been imposed on Bawku following an intertribal clash between Mamprussis and Kusasis. Our correspondent in Bolgatanga, quoting police sources, said the trouble started when some members of the Kusasi Youth Association tried to forcibly close down the Bawku traditional council offices. Five persons were seriously injured and admitted at the Bawku hospital. A number of people have been detained for questioning.

The secretary for the upper east, Mr John Ndebugre, and the assistant commissioner of police in charge of the region, Mr Asare, have visited Bawku to ensure that calm is restored. Police reinforcements have also been sent there and the border guard in the area deployed for patrol duties.

In the meantime, the Kusasi Youth Association has sent a resolution to the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] calling on the council to settle the Bawku chieftancy dispute once and for all. The resolution said the Kusasis strongly resent the imposition of a Mamprussi chief on them.

LIBERIA

DOE DELEGATION FOR GUINEA VISIT LISTED

AB282035 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, will depart Spriggs Payne Airfield at 0900 tomorrow morning for a brief visit to the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.

Members of the head of state's official delegation are the vice head of state, General Pidoer; Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Sampson, PRC assistant secretary general; PRC members Alfred Zeh and Jacob Swen; Lieutenant General Henry Dunbar, chief of staff; Foreign Minister Boimah Fahnbulleh; Justice Minister Winston Tubman; Defense Minister Gray Allison; and Dr Peter Naigow, minister of information. Others on the delegation are Captain Patrick Minikon, minister of state for security affairs; the Liberian ambassador to Guinea, D. Wright; and Lieutenant Colonel Bob Ballah, PRC adviser. Also on the delegation are Mr Jackson F. Doe, adviser to the head of state on national and international affairs; the chairman of the joint security, Colonel Edward Massaquoy; Ambassador (J. Hanfuor), chief of protocol, Executive Mansion; Captain Willie Gibbons, deputy minister of state for public affairs; and Dr G.H. Wongeh, physician to the head of state.

Others are: Brigadier General Robert Luton, aide de camp to the head of state; Mr Nathan Nelson, director of special security services; Mr Wilfred Crock, director of police and Mr (J. Yeman Billis), assistant minister and interpreter.

Meanwhile, during the head of state's 1-day visit to Guinea, the minister of state will manage the affairs of government. According to an Executive Mansion release he has been directed by the commander in chief to work in close cooperation with the secretary general and members of the PRC in the running of the government.

MALI

TRAORE RECEIVES INVITATION TO USSR 28 FEB

AB281635 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] and head of state, this afternoon received in audience the Soviet ambassador, His Excellency Malik Fazylov. After conveying the fraternal greetings of the CPSU General Secretary Comrade Yuriy Andropov to Gen Houssa Traore, secretary general of the UDPM and head of state, the Soviet ambassador gave him an official invitation from the CPSU and the Soviet Government to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union next April. The head of state, Gen Moussa Traore, stressed the significance of this visit which will strengthen the friendly relations existing between the Soviet and Malian peoples.

SENEGAL

EARLY RETURNS SHOW DIOUF, SOCIALIST REELECTED

AB280614 Paris AFP in English 0415 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Dakar, Feb. 28 (AFP) -- Outgoing President Abdou Diouf of Senegal has been re-elected with around 85 percent of the vote, Interior Minister Medoune Fall said here on television early today. The minister said he based the figure on projections made from 132 sample voting stations throughout the country. Trailing far behind the president was Democratic Party leader Abdoulaye Wade, with about 12.5 percent, according to those estimates. The remaining three opposition presidential candidates looked like getting minimal percentages. In the 1978 poll, against former President Leopold Senghor, Mr Wade got 17.8 percent.

Parallel voting for the 120-seat Parliament, President Diouf's Socialist Party appeared set to retain its large majority. The minister said that calculations based on first returns, mainly from rural areas, gave the Socialists about 83 percent of the vote, which would give them 109 seats in the National Assembly. Mr Wade's party, with slightly over 12 percent, could expect eight or nine seats.

Voting has slowed down considerably by lengthy arguments between election officials and opposition party agents as to whether voters had to present identity cards as well as their elector's cards. The Interior Ministry had ruled on the eve of the poll that in towns of more than 5,000 inhabitants, identity papers would not be required. Five of the opposition parties protested jointly that that decision infringed election rules and opened the way to massive fraud. One presidential candidate, Mamadou Dia (People's Democratic Movement), asserted after casting his own vote late in the day here that the ruling Socialists "are in the process of falsifying the elections. But moral victory is already the opposition's".

The polling booths were kept open beyond schedule here and in some other towns Sunday night.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS MAY NOT ATTEND CONAKRY SUMMIT MEETING

AB010936 Paris AFP in French 0903 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Freetown, 1 Mar (AFP) -- President of the Republic of Sierra Leone Siaka Stevens might reconsider his decision to attend the extraordinary summit of the Mano River Union which was to begin on Monday in Conakry because of territorial claims apparently formulated by Liberian head of state Samual Doe, it was learned from reliable sources in Freetown.

The summit of the union which includes Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone was proposed on Saturday by Guinea's President Sekou Toure. The aim of the meeting is to resolve the dispute between Liberia and Sierra Leone which was caused by a Freetown newspaper article that claimed Doe had killed his wife. After learning about the article, Doe closed his border with Sierra Leone.

Siaka Stevens had agreed to attend the Conakry summit but, according to a reliable source, he might change his mind because of the reports reaching Freetown indicating that Doe had recently formulated territorial claims to Sulima and Sherbro, Sierra Leonean areas close to the border where definite signs of oil deposits have been discovered.

In Monrovia, it was announced on Monday by well-informed sources that Master Sergeant Doe was preparing to leave for Conakry to attend the extraordinary summit of the union at the head of a delegation comprising General Nicolas Podier, vice head of state of the People's Redemption Council, and the Liberian ministers of foreign affairs, justice, and defense.

TOGO

53 'CHOP BAR' ATTENDANTS DEPORTED TO GHANA

AB260630 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Fifty three Ghanaian girls resident in the Togolese capital, Lome, have been deported to Ghana. The girls, most of them teen agers, work in Lome as chop bar attendants. They were arrested and escorted to the Ghana-Togo border at Aflao in three buses by the Togolese police. No reason was given by the Togolese authorities.

According to the officer commanding the Aflao guards, Captain Ashiagbor, the Togolese police only escorted the Ghanaians to the border and returned. Major Janet Donkor of Tsrikpe in the Volta region, who was a spokesman for the group, said some of them were rounded up at market places in the night and sent to the police station where they spent 2 days. She said they were not allowed to collect their belongings before being sent home. They did not know what they had done, and the Togolese Government has not assigned any reason for its action.

Meanwhile, all the girles are being kept at Aflao pending arrangements to convey them to their hometowns.

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL LEAVES FOR VISIT TO USSR 27 FEB

EA281118 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1118 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] President Samora Machel left Maputo yesterday evening for a friendly working visit to the USSR. The Mozambique head of state is accompanied by the minister of foreign affairs, Joaquim Chissand, the chief of General Staff of the Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique, Sebastiao Mabote, and the minister for planning, Mario Machungo.

President Samora Machel was seen off at Maputo International Airport by Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and Central Committee and the People's Assembly Permanent Commission secretary, and other senior party and state officials.

SWAZILAND

QUEEN REGENT ADDRESSES OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

MB281041 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 28 Feb 83 pp 1, 15

[By James Dlamini]

[Text] Tighten your belts! This was the warning from the throne at the official opening of Parliament.

Queen Regent Dzeliwe revealed in her speech that the Ministry of Finance budget to be tabled in Parliament tomorrow reflects the biggest deficit in the history of the Kingdom -- E8 million. She warned that the circumstances were such that the amount of money in circulation will have to be limited. She warned further that this in turn will cause temporary hardships. "Our people should expect to tighten their belts further in the coming year," Queen Dzeliwe warned.

"To turn the economic tide they should fold their sleeves and put their shoulder to the wheel. Government, on the other hand, is enjoined to provide new meaningful economic incentives to attract serious foreign investors" she said. She warned that civil servants should adopt a flexible and cooperative attitude towards industry so as to accelerate industrial growth rate and thereby hold down the unemployment rate.

"If government does not institute very strict loss control measures -- such as stricter control on the use of government vehicles and the issue of government fuel, if government does not eliminate unnecessary overseas travel and ensure stricter control and protection of public property then all the measures taken in this budget will be futile," she warned.

"But if we do this and much more, we shall survive the depression and hasten the day when we shall see an upswing in our economy," the queen said. She reiterated that this budget comes at a time when Swaziland, like the rest of the world is going through the worst recession since 1929. "The prevailing heat-wave in this sub-region continues to adversely affect the performance of our agricultural sector, which is the mainstay of our economy. Business investments are reeling under the impact of high bank interest rates.

All these factors foretell a bleak economic year ahead. Government in an attempt to contain spiralling expenditure, has cut down capital expenditure to the bone," Queen Dzeliwe said.

She warned MP's to avoid petty arguments during the budget debate and gave them March 31 as the deadline to complete the budget debate. "I admonish Parliament to avoid all contentious issues during this sitting and concentrate of matters arising from the budget," she said. "This is the only way you can conclude your work before the deadline of March 31, 1983," she added. She explained that traditionally she was still in mourning and was not supposed to appear in public. "However, like other people of the world, Swazis are now aware that these are different times and a different age. Our new form of government has numerous duties and pressing needs to meet -- all of which require finance," she said. She reiterated that Swaziland will steadfastly follow in the footsteps of the late King Sobhuza II.

ZIMBABWE

NKOMO SAYS 'IMPOSSIBLE' TO OBEY POLICE ORDER

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[Text] Harare, Feb 28 (AFP) -- Zimbabwe opposition leader Joshua Nkomo said today that he was not prepared to obey a written order instructing him to notify police whenever he leaves his house in the southwestern city of Bulawayo. "I cannot telephone them every time I go out," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in a telephone interview from his home. "It would take me all day and cost me money. It is impossible for me to comply."

Mr Nkomo, who had his passport seized and has prevented from leaving Zimbabwe on a trip nine days ago, said that if police wanted to keep tabs on his movements, they would have to rely on their own surveillance. He said his lawyer, Bruce Longhurst, was in contact with the authorities on the matter.

The order, issued over the weekend by the local head of the police Criminal Investigation Department (CID), was the most restrictive measure yet against Mr Nkomo, who has aroused the Robert Mugabe government's wrath by publicizing reports of mass killings of civilians by the Army in the southwestern province of Matabeleland.

The opposition leader said the order referred to the inquiry into possible criminal charges against him stemming from his attempted departure from Bulawayo airport February 19. He was held for six hours before being released that day and later told he was being investigated for possible currency violations and infringement of the law and order maintenance act, part of Zimbabwe's arsenal of security regulations.

In Matabeleland, Mr Nkomo's political stronghold, the Army's North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade is alleged to have shot and bayoneted more than 1,000 people to death in operations against renegade guerrillas formerly belonging to Mr Nkomo's wartime Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA).

Prime Minister Mugabe accused Mr Nkomo last Friday of seeking the "active support" of white minority ruled South Africa in destabilizing black-ruled Zimbabwe, and the national newspaper THE HERALD said today that "to turn to South Africa for assistance against this country's independence is an act of madness".

In an editorial saying Mr Nkomo had earned "undying shame," the pro-government newspaper said any Zimbabwean working with Pretoria in the "wicked exercise" of destabilization was a traitor. Mr Nkomo countered today that accusations linking him with South Africa were part of a "big lie" campaign mounted by the government to divert attention from events in Matabeleland and from the "chaotic situation in which he said Mr Mugabe's ruling ZANU party finds itself. "These things have to be clouded and drowned in the fiction of my connection with South Africa that doesn't exist," he said.